SDG SHOWCASE

HOW COMPANIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING AGENDA 2030

Global Compact
Network UK

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FOREWORD

Launched in 2015, Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the only universally agreed, common global agenda to create the sustainable future we want. Global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, high levels of inflation, and extreme weather events have dramatically slowed or reversed progress on the SDGs. With six years left to achieve Agenda 2030, the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs. We are at a critical moment, and the world must change course to put sustainable development back on track.

There has been a marked shift in SDG engagement across the business sector in recent years. Increased expectations from investors, regulators, employees, and customers have put significant pressure on companies to set and achieve ambitious corporate goals that tackle complex sustainability challenges, build business resilience, maintain short-term profits, and enable long-term growth.

However, private sector focus on sustainable development is predominantly centred on rapidly evolving ESG regulations. With limited clear business metrics tied to the SDGs or standardised reporting on SDG impact, companies fear being complicit in 'SDG washing'. This fear is only heightened by the Financial Conduct Authority's Sustainability Disclosure Requirements 'anti-greenwashing' legislation.

However, the misallocation of impact could be due to a deeper misunderstanding on the part of the business community of how actions relate to the SDGs, and the inability to track and measure impact data properly.

To that end, this resource serves as a tool for businesses to assess material impacts to avoid misleading consumers and shareholders, as well as showcasing good practice examples of the private sector working with a clear plan to advance the SDGs for the future we all want.

As we move ever closer to the 2030 agenda, businesses of all sectors and sizes must take bold, ambitious action to achieve the SDGs. We hope this resource helps companies move towards this collective goal forward, faster.

Steve Kenzie
Executive Director
UN Global Compact Network UK

INTRODUCTION

"And to the members of the business community here today – I urge you to see that sustainable development is in fact the best business plan of all."

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, speaking at SDG Action Weekend 2023

There are significant benefits for businesses incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their operations. New business opportunities through market differentiation, expansion, and growth, increased attractivity for employees, customers, and investors, better employee retention, supply chain resilience, and reduced costs through resource and operational efficiency are some of the positive effects SDG-aligned companies can expect. Furthermore, the SDGs – as the only universally agreed blueprint for a sustainable and prosperous future for all – can enable businesses to stay ahead of the curve, not least with rapidly changing ESG regulations.

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are the 17 SDGs, which clearly define the world we want. The SDGs aim to motivate ambitious transformational action, and their 169 targets and 232 indicators enable governments, businesses, and civil society to track progress on the Goals.

Last year's Sustainable Development Report revealed that the world is not on track to achieve any of the Goals by 2030. Measuring Up 2.0 confirms the global trend, with the UK only performing well on 17% of all 132 targets included in the analysis. Realising Agenda 2030 within the next six years will require more ambitious action, from businesses, civil society, and national and local governments.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact provide a common ethical and practical framework for businesses, guiding them in operationalising corporate responsibility. Derived from major UN Conventions and Declarations, they present fundamental values in the areas of human rights, labour rights, environment, and anti-corruption. Together, the Ten Principles and the SDGs provide the necessary framework, values, and long-term vision to help businesses contribute to creating the world we want.

The following report provides an overview of each of the SDGs in turn, explains why the Goals are material to businesses down to the SDG Target level, and showcases good practice examples of how businesses in the UK are already contributing to achieving the Goals. Examples draw from multinationals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as a variety of sectors and industries. The report ends by highlighting how businesses can accelerate action to create a world we like to live and do business in by taking a leadership role through SDG-aligned policy advocacy.

MAPPING IMPACTS AND ASSESSING MATERIALITY

Not all of the 17 Goals will be as pertinent to business operations as others. Companies should therefore start engaging with the SDGs by first mapping their operations' impacts on the Goals across their value chain.

It is important to take the entire value chain into account to identify all impact opportunities, not only those directly connected to their operations, also known as materiality assessments. Impact areas can include raw materials, suppliers, inbound logistics, company operations, distribution, product use, and product end-of-use.

Businesses should reflect on which SDGs are impacted by the company in each of these areas, align operations, and develop solutions to positively contribute to these SDGs. Depending on the context (industry, geography, etc.), companies will identify different impacts in their operations and value chain, and for their products and services.

Materiality assessments enable companies to identify high-impact areas and prioritise resources accordingly. Helpful questions to consider during materiality assessments are:

- What risks are most common in your industry right now? Are the current risks likely to be the same in the future? Consider both people and the planet.
- How severe are those risks? Both to your company and the wider industry?
- Which SDGs are most relevant to those risks?

Most new sustainability reporting standards publish guidance on conducting materiality assessments. CSRD's double materiality approach, for example, requires companies to include financial and impact materiality considerations in their assessments. Whereas financial materiality only analyses the impact of external factors on the company's financial performance, impact materiality analyses the impact of the company's operations on the environment and society. As the SDGs are strongly embedded in CSRD standards, it will prove advantageous for companies to map their SDG impacts across the value chain.

Once businesses have mapped SDG impacts, they can begin to explore opportunities to advance and benefit from the Goals.

THE SDG ACTION MANAGER

Companies can refer to the SDG Action Manager, a tool developed by the UN Global Compact and B Lab, to support SDG mapping processes.

The platform provides guidance on how to start mapping the SDGs, setting goals and tracking improvement, collaborating across the company, and determining high-impact actions.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 4

SDG 5

SDG 6

SDG 7

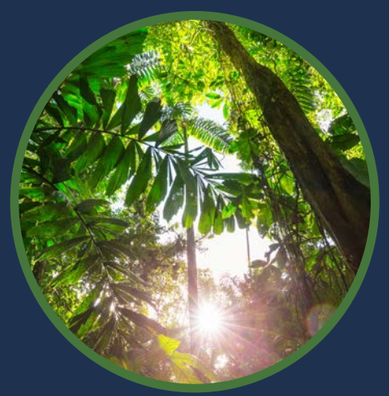
SDG 8

SDG 9

SDG 10

SDG 11

SDG 12



SDG 13

SDG 14

SDG 15

SDG 16

SDG 17

NO POVERTY

Poverty is the root cause of many human rights and labour rights violations (e.g. child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking). The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact encourage businesses to reduce adverse impacts on human and labour rights, thus reducing poverty and addressing other overarching Goals.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Approximately one in five people in the UK live in poverty, meaning that around 14.4 million people live in households with income below 60% of the median.

Reducing poverty comes with significant benefits for businesses. Fighting poverty leads to a healthier and wealthier population that will grow a company's customer, supplier, and employee base (Target 1.1, 1.2). Moreover, improving people's living conditions not only has a positive impact on those people's productivity, but an increasing number of employees and business stakeholders nowadays expect such engagement from their companies. Bupa's most recent well-being index highlights young employees' values, with 48% of Gen Z workers willing to consider leaving their jobs if their employer does not take action on sustainability issues aligned with the SDGs and the Ten Principles.

Poverty can be understood not only as a lack of income but also encompasses other dimensions, such as access to services, social protection, power to negotiate, social status, decent work and opportunities. As such, Goal 1 and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) are closely connected. Poverty remains an impediment to business success by undermining demand, increasing supply chain risks, and influencing employee and stakeholder satisfaction.

Businesses should identify those people in their supply chains that are particularly at risk of poverty and put poverty-mitigating processes into place. Special attention must be paid to inter-sectional considerations, meaning the impact of poverty on already vulnerable groups (e.g., women, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities) (Target 1.5). If businesses ignore such considerations, they risk creating ineffective policies with possible unintended negative side effects, such as discrimination and exclusion.

Private Sector Action on SDG 1

There are a variety of actions businesses can take to fight poverty. Examples include paying living wages, occupational safety and health measures, and sustainable procurement practices (Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5).

Businesses can not only generate employment and thus income by creating jobs, but fair remuneration is vital to ensure a decent standard of living for workers. More than 7,000 businesses are already accredited and certified Living Wage Employers in the UK. However, businesses can, and should, expand this standard to their suppliers. By making the provision of living wages a condition for collaboration, businesses can create trickle-down effects and support the diffusion of fairer wage policies (Target 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5). For example, Unilever's ten-year implementation roadmap includes the commitment to pay a living wage for everyone who directly provides a good or service to the company by 2030.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Although the occurrence of poverty massively depends on the geographical and societal context, businesses have a responsibility to work towards poverty reduction. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights require businesses to respect human rights and labour rights, and to prevent and mitigate poverty.

POVERTY FOOTPRINT: A PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH TO ASSESSING BUSINESS IMPACTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a tool to help implement the SDGs, the Poverty Footprint provides a comprehensive overview of factors that influence poverty, and emphasises stakeholder engagement and partnerships between companies and civil society as a means for establishing pro-poor business strategies.

Target		
1.1	Extreme poverty	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day
1.2	National poverty	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3	Social protection	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
1.4	Access to basic services	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.5	Resilience to disasters	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
1.a	Resources for poverty programmes	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
1.b	Poverty eradication policies	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

NESTLÉ NEEDS YOUTH INITIATIVE

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 7.3, 9.4

With its Nestlé needs YOUth initiative, the company aims to support young people in three different ways. Firstly, its employment and employability measures aim at helping young people get job opportunities. Through internships, traineeships, and jobs, Nestlé enables young people to gain work experience and to set themselves up for future employment. Interns, trainees, and young employees have access to online training, career guidance, mentorship opportunities, and networks, supporting their professional learning and development.

Secondly, Nestlé includes agripreneurship initiatives to encourage and support young people in the farming business. The company provides guidance on making a decent, financially robust living as a farmer and on embedding regenerative agricultural methods into farming practices. Online educational videos are available via the Agripreneurship Academy, covering regenerative farming issues, including agroforestry, soil health, and animal welfare.

Lastly, Nestlé set up its Youth Entrepreneurship Platform to support young people developing business ideas on regenerative agriculture, plant-based products, packaging, and nutrition. The platform includes an overview of existing initiatives, profiles, content, and events. For example, Nestlé's R+D Accelerator programme supports young people in making business/product ideas ready for market in only six months.

ZERO HUNGER

By engaging with Principles 7 to 9 of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, businesses can contribute to creating sustainable food systems, eliminating food loss and or waste, and ending malnutrition.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

14% of UK adults have experienced food insecurity between mid-2021 to mid-2022. According to a 2016 Business and Sustainable Development Commission report, implementing food-related SDGs can generate annual business opportunities worth $320 million and create nearly 80 million jobs by 2030 as well as allow companies to tap into new markets.

The private sector can benefit threefold from achieving SDG 2. Firstly, ending hunger allows businesses to access new and previously underserved markets. Secondly, more sustainable agricultural practices and the reduction of food loss and waste have the potential to deliver $650 billion in annual value by 2030. Lastly, not only does a growing population have an increased demand for food, but consumers are more willing to support companies acting towards achieving one or more of the SDGs. EY's latest Future Consumer Index reveals that 72% of consumers expect businesses to drive better social and environmental outcomes.

As businesses have the potential to negatively influence food security in communities surrounding their operations and supply chain through applying unsustainable agricultural practices or causing water scarcity, they have a responsibility to prevent negative consequences of their business actions.

Private Sector Action on SDG 2

Businesses can implement a variety of measures to positively contribute to SDG 2. By optimising production mechanisms, reducing waste, and innovating food processing and distribution mechanisms, businesses can not only meet the growing demand for nutritious food but also mitigate the negative consequences of climate change on farming and agriculture (Target 2.4). Over three years, the food-producing company Tate & Lyle PLC has revisited its stevia supply chain with regard to environmental and socioeconomic considerations, adopted more regenerative practices, and improved the livelihoods of farmers (Target 2.3, 2.4).

The redesign and improvement of food systems are only successful when consumers have access to the relevant products. Unilever, for example, creates and supports local micro-entrepreneur networks in India, Colombia, Nigeria, and Pakistan, to improve the access to nutritious food products in rural areas (Target 2.1).

Where possible, food products should be made more affordable for consumers. Localising food supply chains can help to protect businesses from the volatility of prices, such as the significant increase in grain prices resulting from the war in Ukraine (Target 2.1).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The Committee on World Food Security at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems as guidelines for businesses to ensure investments in agriculture benefit the people on site.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

The UN Global Compact invites companies to engage with the Food and Agriculture Business Principles by using them as an annual reporting baseline. They include considerations on food security, health, and nutrition, environmental responsibility, economic viability and shared value, human rights, decent work, and community support, good governance and accountability, and knowledge transfer, skills, and technology.

ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE

The Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, aims at ending malnutrition and creating inclusive and resilient food systems. Businesses are invited to commit to (1) creating sustainable food systems, (2) ending rural poverty, (3) eliminating food loss and waste, (4) making adequate and healthy food available to all, and (5) ending malnutrition.

Target		
2.1	**Undernourishment and food security**	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.2	**Malnutrition**	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
2.3	**Small-scale food producers**	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
2.4	**Sustainable agriculture**	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
2.5	**Genetic resources for agriculture**	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
2.a	**Investment in agriculture**	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
2.b	**Agricultural export subsidies**	Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
2.c	**Food price anomalies**	Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

TESCO'S PARTNERSHIP WITH WWF

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 2.4, 2.5, 6.6., 6.B, 15.1, 15.8, 17.16, 17.17

Over five years (2018-2023), Tesco and WWF have partnered to tackle environmental impacts across the food system. Through the partnership, the WWF Basket was developed, an initiative based on concrete outcomes and measures to help UK retailers address their climate and nature impacts, with a view to halving the environmental impact of UK shopping baskets. Furthermore, they have supported sustainability start-ups with their Innovation Connections Fund and published several reports, including suggesting alternative animal feed solutions.

Through this partnership, Tesco also decided to take a closer look at its fruit and vegetable supply from South Africa. With the supply chain under pressure from water scarcity and invasive species, Tesco recognised that a wider, catchment scale transition is necessary compared to projects with specific farms only. In partnership with the government and local environmental groups, the partnership helped to remove invasive species and regenerate the native ecosystem by setting up an indigenous plant nursery.

Not only has this landscape scale transition project created 84 jobs and involved 20 farmers, but it also shows how regenerative agriculture and nature conservation are important for food production and resilience.

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact require businesses to create safe working conditions, protect workers from risks and hazardous materials, ensure equal access to health insurance, respect the right to time off for medical care, create opportunities for women and girls, and commit to inclusion, equality, and human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

The right to health is fundamentally embedded in human rights considerations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 25) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. However, according to the UK's Health and Safety Executive, about 1.8 million UK workers suffer from work-related illnesses. Approximately two-thirds of that figure experience work-related stress, depression, and anxiety, whereas the remaining one-third suffers from musculoskeletal disorders.

Good health can reduce poverty and increase professional development opportunities. Additionally, a healthier workforce and good working relationships can positively impact employee productivity, support employee retention, and thus reduce the costs associated with high turnover rates.

While such figures show the direct and evident connection between corporate action and SDG 3, businesses have the potential to influence health and well-being on a much larger scale through their operations and supply chain engagement (e.g., pollution, waste disposal, health and safety standards). By including responsible health considerations in their operations, companies can create numerous business opportunities.

Private Sector Action on SDG 3

Positively contributing to SDG 3 can take a variety of forms, depending on business size, location, and sector. The most evident actors are companies in the healthcare sector itself. Investing in research and development can help to create new medicines and thus remedy certain diseases and health issues (Target 3.b). Furthermore, businesses can expand access to healthcare by critically engaging with pricing schemes, responsible political influencing, and intellectual property protection practices (Target 3.8). For example, GSK is working towards developing new vaccines and medicines and making their products available more widely through responsible pricing and strategic partnership programmes, thus aiming to positively impact the health of 2.5 billion people by 2030.

However, companies do not need to be in the healthcare sector to improve people's well-being. All businesses should assess and address the health impact of their products, services, and operations. Consumer Products and Services companies can avoid, reform, and replace unhealthy foods, addictive substances, and defective products. Furthermore, businesses should work towards reducing and preventing air pollution, water contamination, and antimicrobial resistances, thus averting up to five million excess deaths a year by 2030 (Target 3.9).

Businesses of all sizes and industries should also put in place effective and well-functioning employment injury insurance schemes (Target 3.8), occupational safety and health measures (Target 3.6, 3.9), and demand similar standards across their supply chain. Occupational safety and health does not only include considerations about physical risks and the prevention of hazards but should also address the systemic causes of ill mental health through the creation of structured and evidenced-based mental health and well-being programmes (Target 3.4).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

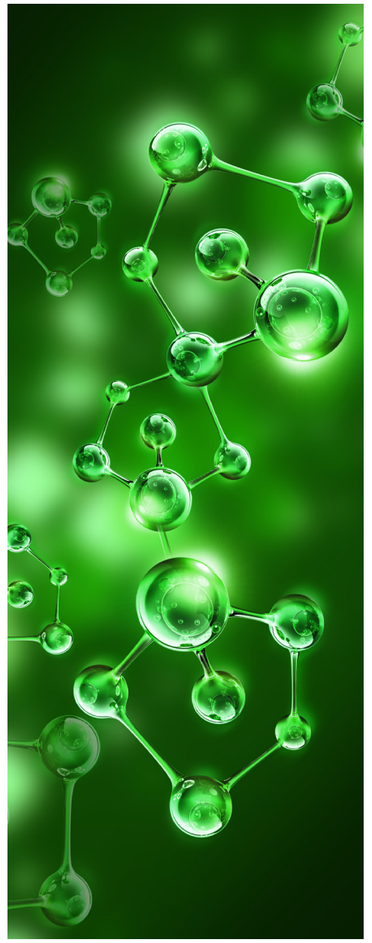
In 2010, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Every Woman Every Child initiative to mobilise governments, the private sector, and civil society to address major global health challenges facing women and children today. Women and children are especially susceptible to negative health impacts, with children mainly missing out on vital vaccinations and women being prone to pregnancy-related risks. Businesses in the UK are therefore required to have pregnancy-related policies in place, including paid time off for antenatal care, maternity leave, maternity pay or allowance, and protection against unfair treatment, discrimination, or dismissal.

NINE BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING SAFETY AND HEALTH THROUGH SUPPLY CHAINS AND BUILDING A CULTURE OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

The brief focuses on the role that businesses can play in ensuring safe and healthy workplaces, especially when operating in countries with deficient national safety and health and employment injury protection schemes. It further recognizes the important link between sound OSH practices and effective employment injury insurance schemes.

WHO GUIDELINES ON MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK

The guidelines outline evidence-based interventions to support mental health at work. Covering organisational interventions, manager and worker training, individual interventions, return to work, and gaining employment, the guidelines help companies to promote mental health, prevent mental health conditions, and support people with mental health conditions at work.



Target		
3.1	Maternal mortality	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2	Child mortality	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
3.3	Communicable diseases	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
3.4	Noncommunicable diseases and mental health	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
3.5	Substance abuse	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
3.6	Road traffic accidents	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
3.7	Sexual and reproductive health	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
3.8	Universal health coverage	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
3.9	Health impact of pollution	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
3.a	Tobacco control	Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
3.b	Research and Development for health	Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
3.c	Health financing & workforce	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states
3.d	Strengthen country capacity	Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

EV CARGO'S OPERATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 3.4, 3.6, 8.8

EV Cargo's Health and Safety Strategy Vision (2023-2028) revolves around six key pillars: well-being, culture, engagement, competence, technology, and efficiency – which is helping safety performance move from being driven by compliance and management to empowered individuals.

To drive progress on its safety, health, environment and quality (SHEQ) performance, the company's SHEQ policy statement and SHEQ manual are the cornerstones of safety management. Added to that, EV Cargo conducts risk assessments and maintains safe systems of work to inform employees and contractors about hazards at work, how to avoid them, and how to react in specific circumstances.

The company implements a policy where employees can stop working if they find themselves in an unsafe situation. Incidents are investigated, root cause analyses conducted, and corrective actions implemented. EV Cargo employees, contractors, and temporary workers complete mandatory and periodic occupational safety and health training, but they are also invited to actively engage with the topics and drive positive changes through local SHEQ committees.

Safety achievements and contributions to SDG 3 were recently recognised with the business awarded a RoSPA Gold Award for the 14th consecutive year, a fourth President's Award, a silver RoSPA in occupational health and safety, and a British Safety Council award.

QUALITY EDUCATION

By implementing the human rights principles of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, businesses recognise education as a fundamental human right, supporting poverty alleviation, inequality, and sustainable development. Education is also a crucial measure to eliminate child labour, thus contributing to Principle 5.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Education is the basis of a stable and productive society. In many markets, however, there is a discrepancy between the skills and availability of workers and employer demand. Two-thirds (66%) of large UK businesses said they struggle to recruit employees with the skills necessary for the role. Furthermore, an estimated 20% of the workforce in the UK will be significantly under-skilled for their jobs by 2030, amounting to around 6.5 million people.

According to the Business Barometer 2023, 73% of UK organisations are currently experiencing skills shortages. This shortage has led to an increased workload for other staff, and 78% say they are experiencing reduced output and profitability as a result. By supporting education and training opportunities, businesses can develop employee capacity, well-being, and productivity of current and future employees, increase profitability, improve the quality of work, and boost innovation and growth.

Finally, businesses can attract and retain better talent by providing skills development and learning opportunities, setting themselves apart from competitors. Such opportunities include courses and certificates, formal education and degree programmes, conferences, workshops, and seminars, vocational training and mentoring as well as networking events and groups.

Private Sector Action on SDG 4

Although the number of businesses offering learning and development is growing, more businesses should provide access to vocational training and life-long professional learning opportunities (Targets 4.4, 4.5, 4.7). Among other things, 94% of employees would stay at a company longer if said company invested in their career, according to a 2018 LinkedIn study.

Furthermore, businesses have a responsibility to educate and upskill people beyond schools. Linklaters, for example, has started several social impact initiatives to boost equal access to employment opportunities (Target 4.4). In partnership with local charities, the company supports young and underrepresented groups of residents to overcome unemployment by providing employment workshops, offering CV reviews, and organising long-term leadership coaching.

Businesses can help improve access to education for all. On the one hand, this can be achieved by providing (paid) internships, work-study programmes, and traineeships to enable access to the business sphere (Target 4.4). On the other hand, digital solutions play a vital role (Target 4.5). Vodafone's Connected Education Platform, for example, is a digital tool to better connect students and teachers and improve collaboration, connectivity, and learning content. So far, more than 800,000 students in ten countries have benefited from this online learning tool.

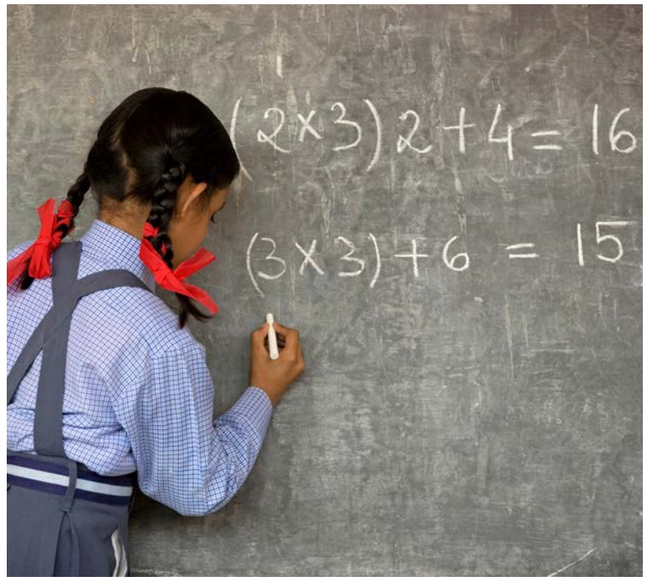
TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

The United Nations Global Compact, UNICEF, and Save the Children have developed the Children's Rights and Business Principles to account for the responsibility the private sector has towards children as one relevant stakeholder group.

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

A considerable opportunity lies with business and management-related higher education institutions. Since 2007, the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative has developed the largest network between the United Nations and business schools. With more than 800 signatories globally, PRME aims to integrate sustainability considerations and the SDGs into management education by seeking a balance between economic, environmental, and social goals.



Target		
4.1	**Effective learning outcomes**	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
4.2	**Early childhood development**	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
4.3	**Technical and vocational education and training and tertiary education**	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
4.4	**Skills for employment**	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
4.5	**Equal access to education**	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
4.6	**Adult literacy and numeracy**	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
4.7	**Sustainable development education**	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
4.a	**Education facilities**	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
4.b	**Scholarships**	By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
4.c	**Qualified teachers**	By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

DLA PIPER'S CARBON LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAMME

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 4.4, 4.7, 13.3

DLA Piper has become the first carbon-literate law firm in the UK after rolling out their Carbon Literacy Training programme. Since its launch in 2022, over 100 employees have completed the course and learned about the basics of climate science, the company's carbon impacts, ways to communicate about climate change, emission reduction opportunities, and potential climate solutions.

The training programme combines self-led learning with facilitated sessions, including group activities and exercises. The sessions are run by DLA Piper's own employees who have completed Carbon Literacy facilitation training.

DLA Piper aims to provide the training to the majority of its UK workforce with plans to expand the programme to other countries over the next two years.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

GENDER EQUALITY

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact include gender equality considerations. By joining the initiative, companies commit to act in line with Principles 1, 2, and 6, i.e., supporting and protecting human rights, and more specifically eliminating all forms of discrimination in the workplace.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Although the gender pay gap in the UK has been slowly declining, it will not close until 2051 if progress continues at the current pace. Ranging at 7.7% in 2023, the gender pay gap represents untapped potential for business innovation, growth, and profitability, as gender diversity in the workplace can lead to up to 20% better business outcomes.

Gender equality can increase business productivity, organisational effectiveness, and consumer satisfaction. Furthermore, a recent study has shown that companies with a more diverse workforce outperformed their competitors, with an average 29% higher return on assets per year (2013-2022) than less diverse businesses.

Gender equality measures should be strongly embedded in wider and intersectional diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, accounting for the complex dynamics between gender and LGBTQIA+ issues, racial equity, disability rights, immigration, and more. Considering intersectionality can not only tackle structural inequalities experienced by marginalised groups but also unlock additional benefits for businesses.

Women's rights are firmly anchored in international human rights frameworks. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights determines that all people are free and equal, regardless of distinctive characteristics, such as sex. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) further defines discrimination against women and extends the responsibility to protect women from discrimination to non-state actors.

Private Sector Action on SDG 5

Closing the gender pay gap remains central to fighting inequalities and supporting women in the workplace (Target 5.1, 5.5). With pay being one of the most influential factors on motivation and relationships at work, closing the gender pay gap can not only increase employee morale and employee retention, and reduce absenteeism but also create a positive brand image and boost innovation and productivity.

Furthermore, flexible working arrangements allow a greater number of women to take on more paid work, enable a more equal division of care work between genders, give more opportunities to people with disabilities, support women's career progressions as well as attract and retain a more diverse talent pool (Target 5.5).

The professional services company Accenture has been recognised as the highest-scoring company on the Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index, with a 45% female representation in its Board of Directors, 48% in the global workforce, and 50% and 52% in promotions and new hires respectively. Research has shown that having women in top management teams correlates with better financial performance. It is therefore crucial that businesses actively work towards combating gender stereotypes and include female talent, skills, and perspectives in boards and other leading management positions (Target 5.1, 5.5).

Employers can implement a variety of measures to further support gender equality: companies should embed gender-responsive procurement in their operations, i.e. supply chain and marketing practices that empower women. Furthermore, professional training and development opportunities, e.g. through mentoring in the workplace, support professional advancement and a better representation of women at all levels of the organisation (Target 5.5).

DWF GROUP'S MENOPAUSE POLICY

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 3.7, 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 10,2.

In 2022, DWF Group rolled out its new Menopause Support Policy, recognising that menopause impacts employees' personal and professional lives.

The company set up a Menopause Hub on its intranet to provide resources on (i) what menopause is, (ii) how menopause can impact employees in the workplace, and (iii) information about available support initiatives, such as an Employee Assistance Programme and a Menopause Group, and information on workplace adjustments. The Hub also hosts regular webinars and Coffee & Chat sessions on the topic and added a Menopause Plan to its employee benefits programme.

The comprehensive policy was created in partnership with DWF's own Menopause Group, external DEI partners, and members of DWF's Employee Networks. This approach enabled the company to learn and include best practices and be inclusive.

To support the implementation of the policy, DWF Group created a managers' guide with advice on how to start conversations about menopause in the workplace and support colleagues experiencing menopause symptoms.

Target		
5.1	Discrimination against women and girls	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.2	Violence against women and girls	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.3	Early marriage	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
5.5	Women in leadership	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.6	Reproductive health access and rights	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
5.a	Equal economic rights	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
5.b	Technology for women empowerment	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
5.c	Gender equality policies	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can help businesses contribute to SDG 5. Women and girls are often negatively and disproportionately affected by business activities, wherefore a gender lens to the Principles can help mitigate adverse human rights impacts by adopting gender-responsive assessments as well as gender-transformative measures and remedies.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES

The United Nations Global Compact has, in partnership with UN Women, founded the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) as a guide to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace. The associated WEPs Gender Gap Analysis Tool can help companies identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities in their approach to improving gender equality in their organisation.

HEFORSHE ACTION KIT

HeForShe was created by UN Women to encourage people of all gender identities and expressions to become involved in and advocate for gender equality. The HeForShe Action Kit for the workplace includes specific actions to support gender equality at work and encourages organisations to set up targeted action plans. By providing specific examples, the toolkit outlines actions businesses can take towards achieving gender equality, for example, by supporting male allyship.

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

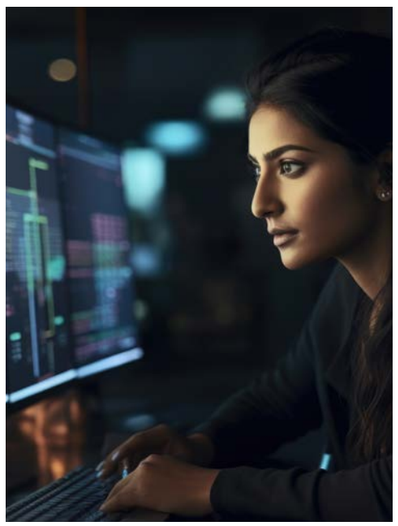
The Every Woman Every Child initiative mobilises governments, the private sector, and civil society to address major global health challenges facing women and children today. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to negative health impacts, for example with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Businesses should therefore have specific health policies in place, thus supporting gender equality in the workplace.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

The United Nations Global Compact, UNICEF, and Save the Children have developed the Children's Rights and Business Principles to account for the responsibility the private sector has towards children as one relevant stakeholder group. The Principles take gender-specific considerations into account, such as gender-specific child labour risks for girls (domestic work and sexual exploitation), as well as gender-appropriate water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities

FORWARD FASTER

To accelerate progress on gender equality, participating companies of the UN Global Compact can sign up for the Forward Faster Initiative and receive guidance on equal pay, as well as equal representation, participation, and leadership.



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Principles 7, 8, and 9 of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact refer to the support of environmental sustainability. Adopting a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, promoting greater environmental responsibility, and developing environmentally friendly technologies all include a more sustainable and innovative approach to handling water in business operations.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

All businesses rely on water – for their operations and for the health and safety of their employees. According to the British Safety Council, a loss of water supply in London alone would cost businesses £300 million per day. With businesses responsible for 30% of British water consumption, their contribution to clean water and sanitation is crucial.

Engaging in water stewardship practices – holistic strategies for water use and efficiency – helps companies mitigate physical (including water scarcity, floodings, and water pollution), reputational, and regulatory risks. By responsibly managing and influencing water resources, businesses can reduce operational costs and protect the company from water stress. Furthermore, solid water stewardship plans can improve brand reputation and thus positively influence customer decisions.

Active engagement with communities affected by business and supply chain operations is crucial to mitigate the negative consequences of excessive water use, especially in those parts most affected by water scarcity and climate change.

Private Sector Action on SDG 6

Investing in staff health and hygiene begins with ensuring access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services (WASH) (Target 6.2). This is particularly salient for companies with operations in middle and low-income countries. The latest WASH4Work Insights Report highlighted the link between investing in WASH and reduced absenteeism and medical incidents, and increased productivity and punctuality. Regarding financial returns on investment, the research also shows that every $1 invested in WASH can deliver a return of up to $9.04. Furthermore, companies should develop water stewardship programmes (Target 6.4). Hilton Food Group's hot water saving project, for example, looks to save up to 5.5 million litres of water in six months alone by reducing the water temperature, changing nozzles, and installing a rubber belt in all its factories.

Avoiding water pollution and protecting water-based ecosystems are also a crucial element of achieving SDG 6 (Target 6.3). Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, for example, separates discharge rainwater from wastewater in its Antwerp production facility. In partnership with the local municipality, the company is now pumping the rainwater into a local wetland lake and infiltration canal to improve local biodiversity and is also reusing rainwater for irrigation.

Finally, companies can create and use products and services that conserve water. By using new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, businesses can monitor water systems to prevent water loss, e.g., by identifying water pipe leaks or improving irrigation techniques (Target 6.4).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

CEO WATER MANDATE

United Nations Global Compact participants can join the CEO Water Mandate to not only recognise their responsibility for ensuring access to clean water and sanitation but also to improve their water stewardship practices. Companies commit to implementing measures in six core areas: direct operations, supply chain and watershed management, collective action, public policy, community engagement, and transparency.

FORWARD FASTER

To accelerate progress on water resilience, participating companies of the UN Global Compact can sign up for the Forward Faster Initiative and receive guidance on building water resilience across global operations and supply chains and achieving collective positive water impact.

WWF WATER STEWARDSHIP

Businesses can receive guidance from WWF on water stewardship to support their journey, including insights on water awareness, knowledge of impact, internal supply chain and action, collective action and governance influence

WATERAID

Businesses can partner with WaterAid to develop new solutions for achieving SDG 6, such as HSBC's Water Programme, which reached more than seven million people with clean water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

Target		
6.1	Safe drinking water	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2	Access to sanitation and hygiene	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
6.3	Water quality	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
6.4	Water-use efficiency	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
6.5	Transboundary water cooperation	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
6.6	Water-related ecosystems	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
6.a	International cooperation on water and sanitation	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
6.b	Participatory water and sanitation management	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

HALEON'S WATER STEWARDSHIP

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 3.9, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 15.1, 15.8, 17.16, 17.17

Haleon has recognised water as a valuable resource that is to be shared with the communities it is operating in. As a signatory of the CEO Water mandate, the company has committed to working towards continuous improvement in six core areas of their water stewardship practice including understanding water use in direct operations and engaging in collective action.

Haleon is a member of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), and is implementing measures to make its water management more sustainable. As part of this, Haleon is aiming to meet AWS's water stewardship standard at all its manufacturing sites by 2025 with its site in Cape Town South Africa the first to pursue certification.

In addition, Haleon is implementing circularity principles at its sites, such as reuse, recycling, and composting measures. This is part of a broader goal for all sites to be certified by the TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) circulation system by 2030.

Finally, in 2022, Haleon partnered with WWF South Africa to support water replenishment activities in the Western Cape. The project has been focused on improving freshwater availability by removing non-native plants from the local water catchment area and aims to restore 250 hectares in the local catchment area by 2025. It will also establish a community-run nursery growing native plant species that will be used as part of the river restoration activities, benefiting the local ecosystem and community.

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact require businesses to include affordable and clean energy considerations in their activities. Principle 9 especially encourages companies to actively use their purchasing power and investment capacity to source from renewable sources, e.g., by exceeding the average proportion of renewable electricity available in the grid.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

The extreme volatility in the energy market over the past few years has caused energy prices to rise dramatically, leading to significant financial costs for businesses. In light of this, many businesses have begun to implement energy management systems and explore options for reducing their reliance on fossil fuel-derived energy (Target 7.2). Despite the scaling up of renewable energy generation and advances in energy storage capacity, significant barriers remain for businesses to reduce their reliance on carbon-intensive energy and protect themselves from price volatility. As a result, investment in low-carbon energy generation in the UK is stagnating, and business operations (excluding business-related transport emissions) are directly responsible for 17% of UK greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite the challenges that persist in operationalising affordable and clean energy, there are significant business benefits associated with taking action to improve energy efficiency and productivity, reducing overall usage, and supporting an increase in the generation and storage capacity of renewable energies.

Increasing business investment in clean energy has impacted price trends in the sector. The more renewable energy sources are used, the more affordable they become, and some energy sources, such as offshore wind, are already cheaper than gas or coal.

By becoming increasingly energy efficient, companies can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and thus, their negative impact on the climate. Energy-efficient businesses can also reduce operational costs, for example, through reduced energy bills with regard to heating, lighting, and equipment.

Furthermore, the potential on-site generation of solar electricity allows the localisation of energy production, creating market stability by decoupling from the volatility of international energy prices (e.g., increasing oil and gas prices through the war in Ukraine), making businesses more resilient and reducing risks associated with international shocks.

Private Sector Action on SDG 7

Influence and progress on SDG 7 are not limited to energy providers – every business can review its operations with regard to affordable and clean energy. Since all companies depend on energy, energy efficiency and responsible sourcing can be leveraged to minimise costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy-efficient strategies can include energy-saving business equipment (e.g., LED lighting) and building management (e.g., heating and cooling system), solar panels as a renewable energy source, and resource efficiency (e.g., avoid transportation by replacing in-person meetings with digital alternatives) (Target 7.3).

By investing in research and development, companies can develop new, affordable, and efficient sustainable energy products to accelerate progress (Target 7.3). Royal Mail's new Midlands Parcels Superhub, for example, is an automated parcels facility which exclusively runs on its own solar electricity. Furthermore, the hub itself is considered energy efficient, the facility harvests rainwater, as well as connects to other distribution centres via an integrated train, replacing more than 3,000 Royal Mail trucks per year, further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Although the transition to renewable energy (Target 7.2) is a positive and desirable development, it goes along with a number of sector changes and thus entails a risk of job losses and other negative social consequences. Renewable energy infrastructure relies on critical minerals, such as copper, lithium, nickel, and cobalt, the procurement of which is associated with a number of supply chain risks (e.g., environmental degradation, water stress, forced labour, and corruption).

Being aware of those issues, businesses should upskill workers where they can and collaborate with communities dependent on the energy sector to prevent negative outcomes and support a just transition. SSE, a British energy provider, has increased its investment in learning, training, and development programmes as part of its just transition strategy to support workers who want to transition to low-carbon roles, including an engineering conversion course to upskill and retrain engineers from different sectors. Furthermore, the company works together with the local communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure to secure support. By setting up Community Investment Funds, SSE shares economic value with those communities impacted by the construction and operation of renewable energy installations.

Finally, companies can create and use products and services that conserve water. By using new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, businesses can monitor water systems to prevent water loss, e.g., by identifying water pipe leaks or improving irrigation techniques (Target 6.4).

WHATLEY MANOR'S REDUCED ENERGY CONSUMPTION

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 7.3, 12.2, 12.5, 12.6, 13.2.

Whatley Manor, a UK hotel, spa, and restaurant, surrounded by 12 acres of land, has implemented new energy efficiency and consumption measures.

In 2022, compared to 2019, Whatley Manor has reduced its energy consumption per guest night by 25% and its gas consumption by 11%. Thanks to its investment in renewable energy, it achieved a reduction in Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions of 70.5%. Following a switch to biogas in October 2022, Whatley Manor is expected to reach Scope 1 and 2 close to zero in 2023 data.

The company implemented several energy-saving and low-carbon solutions:

- Switching to a renewable energy provider
- Removing gas from kitchen
- Switching to biogas for heating and hot water across property
- Monitoring energy use (smart metering and centralising energy data)
- Implementing low-cost solutions (reducing pool/spa/boiler temperatures, replacing old appliances with energy-efficient alternatives, LED lighting, switching thermal suites to on-demand)
- Using a thermal camera to identify heat loss and improve insulation
- Train staff on good practices to save energy

Target		
7.1	Access to energy services	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
7.2	Share of renewable energy	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
7.3	Energy efficiency	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
7.a	International cooperation on energy	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

INDUSTRIAL ENERGY TRANSFORMATION FUND (IETF)

The IETF grants funding to businesses with high energy usage to help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The third (and potentially last) IETF phase, which distributes another £185 million, is open for applications until 10 April 2024.

SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS INITIATIVE (SBTI)

Businesses can engage with the SBTi, a corporate climate action NGO to limit global warming to 1.5°C. As the continuation of Caring for Climate and Business Ambition for 1.5°C initiatives, SBTi establishes standards and provides guidance for businesses to set science-based targets and independently assesses and validates those targets. SBTi also develops sector-specific guidance (e.g. apparel and footwear, financial institutions, and power) to account for differences between sectors and suggests specific methodologies, frameworks, and tools to help companies reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Sustainable Energy for All is an international organisation working with the United Nations, governments, the private sector, civil society, and philanthropies to drive action on SDG 7. Together with a range of partners, the organisation supports countries accessing the finance and technical assistance needed to implement energy transitions.

CLIMATE GROUP'S EP100 AND RE100 INITIATIVES

EP100 is a global corporate energy efficiency initiative. When joining, businesses commit to doubling their energy productivity, rolling out energy management systems, or achieving net zero-carbon buildings.

The RE100 initiative focuses on renewable energy. Businesses commit to 100% renewable energy and are encouraged to bring forward their target dates to support the Climate Group's goal of reaching carbon-free grids by 2040.

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Within their coverage of human rights, the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact include specific labour rights considerations. Principles 3 to 6 obligate participating companies to support the freedom of association and collective bargaining as well as to fight forced and compulsory labour, especially child labour.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 3
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

In 2022, the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy counted 5.5 million private sector businesses in the UK which drive the country's economic performance. Companies benefit from economic growth as it results in stronger returns, generates demand, and helps boost profitability. Creating decent working conditions for employees only strengthens those trends, adding reputational and HR benefits.

Business benefits which result from investing in decent work measures are manifold. By upholding labour standards, companies not only increase reputational benefits but also reduce the risk of legal liability, especially with more rigorous supply chain due diligence regulations coming into force, such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) in the EU.

Implementing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies can reduce existing inequities within the organisation, thus attracting more skilled and productive talent. Lastly, supporting industrial relations increases employee engagement and reduces staff turnover. This, in turn, has positive impacts on business productivity and employee performance.

Private Sector Action on SDG 8

A 2022 study revealed that although nearly all FTSE100 companies have an inclusive mission statement, only half of them actually implement positive DEI initiatives. Although business ambition and sustainability commitments should be a part of companies' visions and missions, businesses should: create targeted policies; dedicate funding for implementation, upskilling, and research and development; map, monitor, and influence their supply chains; as well as report on their progress towards their goals (Target 8.2, 8.7).

Large parts of the global economy are informal, thus impeding progress on decent work measures, such as living wages, DEI policies, and social protection. In line with more rigorous corporate sustainability regulations, businesses should monitor and adapt their supply chains to prevent adverse human rights effects, further decent working conditions in their operations, and mitigate risk. This includes the elimination of child and forced labour, occupational safety and health measures, and sustainable procurement practices (Target 8.7). National Grid, an Accredited Living Wage Employer, does not only pay a living wage to its 22,000 employees but has also embedded the principle in its Supplier Code of Conduct as a pre-condition for new cooperations and contracts.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights set a standard of conduct for companies to support concerted business action on eliminating human rights abuses and creating decent working conditions throughout business operations.

OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

The OECD developed these recommendations to encourage multinational companies to positively contribute to economic, environmental, and social development and to reduce the adverse impacts of business operations on people and the planet. To that end, the Guidelines address key business areas, including human rights, labour rights, environment, bribery, consumer interests, disclosure, science and technology, competition, and taxation.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)

The ILO brings together governments, employers, and workers to set labour standards and promote decent work. The ILO has its own helpdesk to support companies in aligning their business operations with international labour standards.

UNI GLOBAL UNION

The UNI Global Union represents workers in more than 150 countries and supports local unions and collective bargaining initiatives.

FORWARD FASTER

To accelerate progress on living wage, participating companies of the UN Global Compact can sign up for the Forward Faster Initiative and receive guidance on living wage, and on creating joint action plans with contractors, supply chain partners, and other stakeholder towards achieving living wages. Furthermore, companies can use the Living Wage Analysis Tool (LWAT) to identify actions and further opportunities to provide a living wage to ensure all workers, families, and communities can live in dignity.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS NAVIGATOR

The UN Global Compact Business & Human Rights Navigator provides in-depth analyses, due diligence recommendations, and case studies for more resources and tangible access to equality and anti-discrimination in the areas of child and forced labour, discrimination, freedom of association, occupational safety and health, living wage, working time, gender equality, migrant workers, and indigenous peoples.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS (IOE)

The IOE unites a number of national employer organisations to engage in social and employment policy debates. Members can access resources and benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges on influencing policies affecting business operations.

Target		
8.1	Per capita economic growth	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
8.2	Economic productivity and innovation	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
8.3	Formalisation of SMEs	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.4	Material resource efficiency	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
8.5	Full employment and decent work	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
8.6	Youth not in employment, education, or training	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
8.7	Child and forced labour	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
8.8	Labour rights and safe working environment	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
8.9	Sustainable tourism	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
8.10	Access to financial services	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
8.a	Aid for trade	Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
8.b	Strategy for youth employment	By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

BSI'S SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 1.1, 1.2, 8.7, 8.8, 16.1, 16.2

The British Standards Institution (BSI) established its zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery in its Code of Business Ethics and Group Sustainability Code respectively. Potential partners and suppliers must comply with the two concepts to be eligible for cooperation.

BSI works with about 5,900 suppliers per year and employs initial and regular due diligence checks to ensure the commitment to its policies. To this end, BSI identifies suppliers with an increased risk of modern slavery, mainly in the technology hardware, cleaning services, food catering, hospitality, and delivery services sectors. High-risk suppliers are expected to have a compliant modern slavery statement in place which incorporates the commitment to the Group's Sustainability Code.

The organisation uses its own solutions to ensure it is not complacent in human rights abuses. It has recently published a new standard, BS25700:2022, and a corresponding guide to support organisations in their operational responses to modern slavery. The guide is publicly accessible.

Internal action towards fighting modern slavery includes awareness training for all employees and contingent workers and a 'Speak Up'-campaign to support the reporting of abuses. The 'BSI Connect Screen', a data-driven tool which collects risk information, provides the company with data on forced labour, child labour, human trafficking, and forced marriage with regard to the countries BSI's supply chain is located in.

MARSHALLS' WORK ON CHILD LABOUR

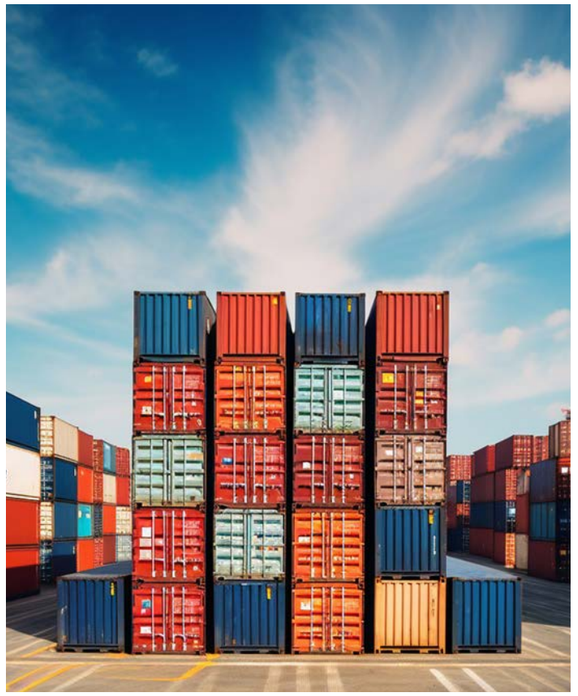
CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 1.1, 1.2, 8.7, 8.8, 16.1, 16.2

As part of Marshalls' commitment to human rights and tackling modern slavery, the company works towards eliminating child labour in its operations and supply chains. Marshalls has a specific Children's Rights Policy acknowledging its responsibility towards implementing the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

As a building products supplier, the company is aware of the child labour risks in its supply chain and has mapped some of its natural stone supply chains back to raw materials.

The company also conducts human rights due diligence, which includes:

- Analysis activities to identify high-risk areas and classification of suppliers (goods for resale, direct materials, indirect purchases)
- Modern slavery risk assessments
- Visiting supply chain partners, second- and third-party audits



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact ask companies to go further than merely declaring their commitment to specific values around human/labour rights, environment, and anti-corruption. It is expected that companies take active measures to protect rights, eliminate harmful practices, and implement sustainable processes.

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

About 60% of the UK's investment in research and development (R&D) is funded by the private sector, which itself performs about 70% of R&D. Businesses can only benefit from achieving SDG 9, as innovative technologies can be used to develop more environmentally friendly products and services, as well as help companies monitor their operations and supply chains to meet human/labour rights and environmental principles.

Businesses can benefit directly from a more sustainable industry and infrastructure. Inclusive and resilient systems have the potential to lift people out of poverty, allowing businesses to tap into new markets and increase profitability. Furthermore, investment in R&D drives innovation and increases the productivity and well-being of the workforce, resulting in higher rates of staff retention.

Private Sector Action on SDG 9

Sustainable infrastructure practices are vital for achieving Goal 9. Companies can invest in and use renewable energy sources and develop greener buildings and smarter transportation (Target 9.4). Businesses should include sustainable industrialisation considerations throughout their entire supply chains. Clean production technologies, waste reduction, recycling, and the use of recycled materials can save money, reduce companies' greenhouse gas emissions, and limit the adverse impacts of business operations on local communities (Target 9.5).

Furthermore, businesses can invest in R&D (Target 9.5) to drive innovation, profits, and employee/ consumer well-being. A 2023 Frontier Economics report estimates that every £1 invested in R&D brings a 20% return on investment.

Knowledge generation and innovation should also be considered in supplier engagement. By setting supply chain standards and codes of conduct, engaging regularly with suppliers as well as providing guidance and training, companies can ensure standards, support skill transfer, and create a trickle-down effect, thus supporting sustainable industrialisation globally. Danone, for example, has created a Regenerative Agriculture Knowledge Center to share insights on regenerative agriculture and sustainable farming with farmers, farm advisors, field technicians, and technical partners.

Finally, companies can enable access to their products and services by developing online tools. Digital solutions can increase the number of customers, lead to more efficient business operations, and improve communication.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE AND PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

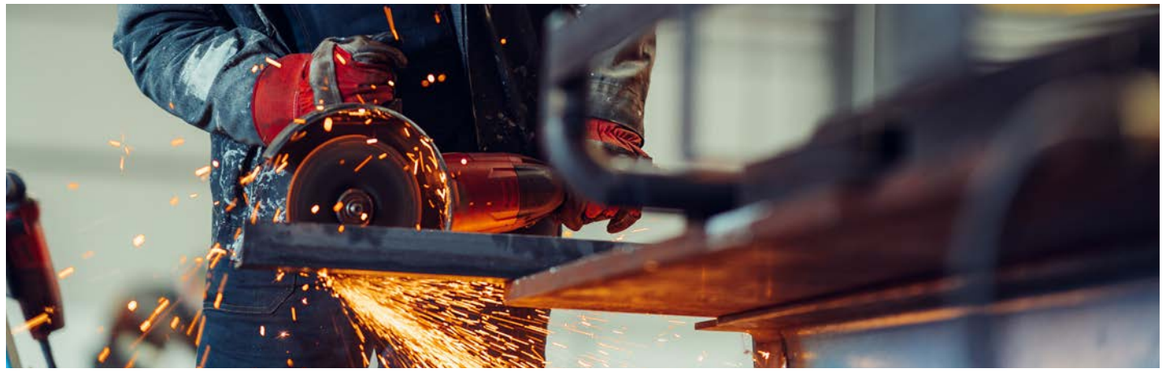
To boost responsible investment in industry and infrastructure, the UN Global Compact, together with UNEP Finance, launched the Principles for Responsible Investment initiative to help investors align their decision-making and ownership practices with ESG issues.

EQUATOR PRINCIPLES

Financial institutions can join the Equator Principles Association, which introduces environmental and social considerations into risk management frameworks.

FRAMEWORK FOR BREAKTHROUGH IMPACT ON THE SDGS THROUGH INNOVATION

The report provides practical guidance to companies on how to use the SDGs as an inspiration for innovation and orient their innovation processes to better address the SDGs.



Target		
9.1	**Infrastructure development**	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
9.2	**Sustainable and inclusive industrialisation**	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
9.3	**Small-scale industries access to finance**	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
9.4	**Sustainable and clean industries**	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
9.5	**Research and development**	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
9.a	**Resilient infrastructure**	Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states
9.b	**Domestic technology development**	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
9.c	**Access to information and communications technology and the internet**	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

VODAFONE BUSINESS' MYFARMWEB

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 2.4, 9.4, 9.5, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 15.a

With MyFarmWeb, Vodafone has developed a cloud-based web platform that supports farmers and businesses in storing, visualising, and viewing data from their farmland.

Using Internet of Things (IoT) technology, the platform collects data from IoT sensors across the farmland, such as soil quality, nutrient concentrations, and yield. It consolidates and edits the data to make it commercially workable, allowing farmers to make better-informed decisions about their agricultural practices. This can not only increase efficiency but also reduce waste and negative environmental impacts.

The MyFarmWeb platform is currently used by more than 9,300 commercial farms across Australia, Europe, the United States, South Africa, and New Zealand.

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact require businesses to include social sustainability considerations into their operations with human rights Principles 1 and 2 as the cornerstone of corporate responsibility. Added to that, labour rights should be respected and diversity, equity, and inclusion measures implemented to reduce inequalities.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2

LABOUR

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 3
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

According to a 2023 study, 22% of UK employees had experienced discrimination in the workplace based on ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, or a combination of those. Businesses have a responsibility to foster a culture of real inclusivity with the many benefits that it provides, including happy and high-performing teams. Companies, therefore, should be actively reducing inequalities by indirectly and directly influencing their employees, value chain, customers, and local communities.

Engagement with equality and anti-discrimination can be tremendously beneficial for businesses. In general, slow or stagnating social development goes along with poverty, inequality, and weak rule of law, thus hindering business operations and economic growth. Countering such dynamics can help unlock new markets, including an increased attraction and retention of employees, business partners, and customers. A more stable and predictable business environment positively impacts profitability and economic growth. Significantly, workplace equality and diversity can improve employee well-being and morale, thus increasing employee productivity, engagement, and retention as well as boosting innovation.

Equality and non-discrimination are recognised in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which introduces ten protected characteristics: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth and other status. Other international law agreements apply this understanding to specific contexts, such as the workplace (e.g., International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) or address specific protected characteristics (e.g., Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Private Sector Action on SDG 10

Businesses can implement targeted measures to build an inclusive workforce, such as anonymous and skills-based hiring processes. Furthermore, companies can invest in and implement Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies that specifically take disadvantaged groups into account. Diageo, for example, put in place industry-leading parental leave provisions and supports transitioning employees with its Gender Identity and Expression Guidelines (Target 10.2).

Moreover, companies can create more economic opportunities by increasing access to education and training. DLA Piper, for example, supports law students facing social, economic, or cultural barriers to becoming lawyers. In partnership with Trinity College, it has so far provided introductory law courses, negotiation workshops, and CV skills learning sessions (Target 10.3).

Central to improving DEI in an organisation (including its value chain) is undertaking due diligence, especially by engaging with supplier organisations. Sky's supplier diversity strategy specifically targets inclusive procurement. By tracking spending, creating an online portal for better communication, diverse information and proposal requests, supplier policies, and targeted investments, the company aims to have 51% of its supply chains owned and operated by underrepresented groups (Target 10.3).

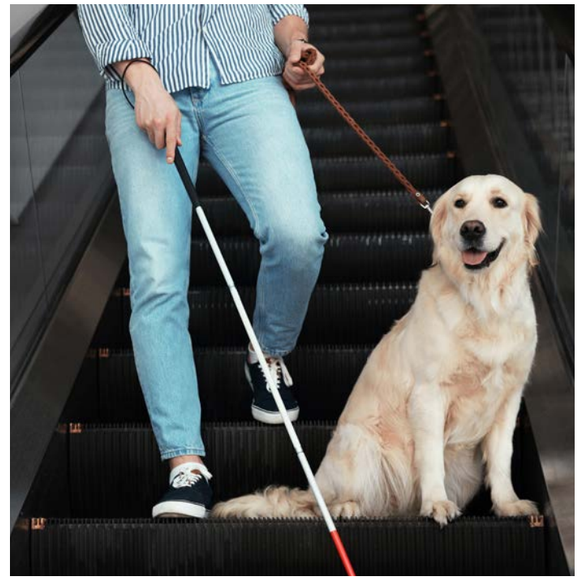
BURGES SALMON'S REVERSE DEI MENTORING PROGRAMME

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 4.7, 8.5, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 16.7

After running a pilot scheme in 2021, Burges Salmon has expanded its reverse mentoring programme. The programme partners up senior leaders and managers (mentees) with colleagues with lived experience of different diversity characteristics (mentors). It encourages employees to share their experience as well as their professional and personal perspectives on DEI issues.

The programme covers ethnic diversity as well as disability and health conditions and should increase awareness of DEI topics in management and leadership positions.

Across 2021 and 2022, about 20 senior leadership colleagues have taken part in the programme. As a result, they feel about 30% more confident after the six-month mentoring period to engage with sensitive topics and take more practical actions to create a more inclusive business culture.



Target		
10.1	**Income growth (bottom 40%)**	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
10.2	**Social, economic, and political inclusion**	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
10.3	**Eliminate discrimination**	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
10.4	**Fiscal and social protection policies**	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
10.5	**Regulation of financial markets**	Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
10.6	**Inclusive global governance**	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
10.7	**Safe migration and mobility**	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
10.a	**Special and differential treatment (WTO)**	Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
10.b	**Resource flows for development**	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
10.c	**Remittance costs**	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: EMPLOYERS' TOOLKIT

Businesses can refer to this toolkit, developed by the Bridge Group and Social Mobility Commission, that want to engage with social mobility issues. The guide covers several steps, from taking the Social Mobility Pledge to becoming a leader in this space as a Social Mobility Employer, by addressing necessary interventions, data, leadership and culture, outreach, hiring, progression, and advocacy.

LGBTIQ+ INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

The report shares insights on how companies and individuals must combat homophobia and transphobia in the workplace and engage with and support LGBTIQ+ colleagues and community members.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES

The United Nations Global Compact has, in partnership with UN Women, founded the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) as a guide to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace. The associated WEPs Gender Gap Analysis Tool can help companies identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities in their approach to improving gender equality in their organisation.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE ROLE OF FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

The Good Practice Note provides background on the history of FPIC, without taking a definitive viewpoint on its legal status. The Note also explores the business case for obtaining FPIC and the challenges that are likely to arise in the process; outlines current company good practices to obtain FPIC; and discusses emerging practices that not only support FPIC but also long-term benefits for affected indigenous communities.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Especially the environment principles of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact guide business action with regard to sustainable cities and communities. With economic activity concentrating in urban areas, businesses should reduce and carefully manage their environmental impact, e.g., by developing innovative and sustainable waste management practices.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

About 84% of UK citizens live in urban areas. There are challenges that must be tackled in order to increase cities' (and by extension, businesses') resilience, and diminish the percentage of poverty, inequality, social exclusion, violence and disaster risks. The only way to do so is by building sustainable communities.

More sustainable cities and communities benefit businesses in a variety of ways. Firstly, healthier citizens make up a more productive workforce. Secondly, locations with a good quality of life are more attractive – for businesses and people – meaning that businesses will have a wider, more productive talent pool to recruit from. This is enhanced by better transport links, resulting in better market access and functioning.

Finally, sustainable cities and communities present better operating environments, allowing companies to reduce running and energy costs. However, urbanisation practices should be managed carefully and sustainably to avoid unintended negative impacts on the local population, such as increasing housing prices and rising inequalities between rural and urban areas due to accelerated urban migration.

Following a number of UN Member States including healthy environment provisions in their national legislations, the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment was recognised globally by the UN General Assembly in 2022.

Private Sector Action on SDG 11

As emissions from heating and powering London's commercial and industrial buildings alone make up 36% of the city's carbon footprint, more sustainable solutions are necessary to support its net zero journey. Businesses can support such efforts by investing in research and development projects: resilient buildings, transport, green spaces, electricity, water, and waste management have a vast potential for improvement (Target 11.6).

Furthermore, companies can protect and invest in cultural and natural heritage. Along their supply chain operations, businesses should not only assess their environmental and social impact, but consequently invest in environmental protection, cultural sites, and transport infrastructure (Target 11.4). Mott MacDonald, for example, designed a coastal defence project which included rebuilding a beach promenade in Colwyn Bay and replenishing the beach with 1Mt of dredged sand to protect 200 properties and road and rail infrastructure from flooding, while also creating a new amenity which has reinvigorated the area.

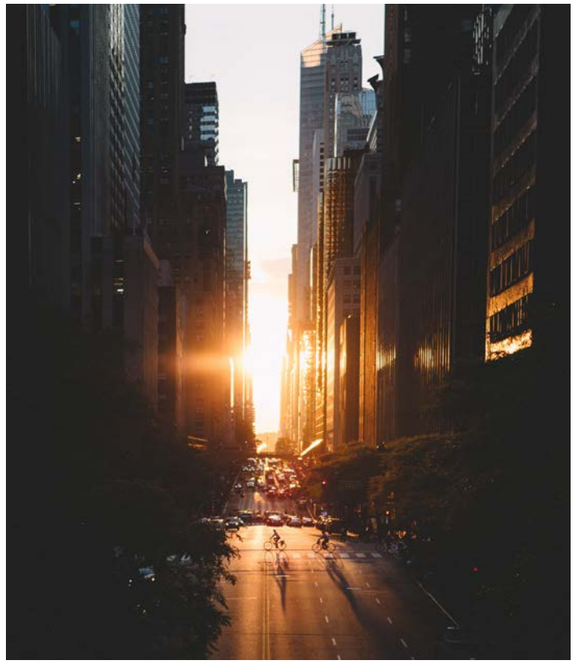
Furthermore, companies should enable access to essential services in the workplace and relevant communities. This includes education, housing, and healthcare services which should be covered by companies where they are not available (Target 11.1).

Furthermore, companies can create and increase the provision of green spaces (Target 11.7) to, among others, meet the increasing demand for green spaces of employees. Since 2007, NatWest Group has been collaborating with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), allowing employees to volunteer their time to support local community projects, including tree planting programmes and food growing projects.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

CITY-BUSINESS CLIMATE ALLIANCE

To achieve SDG 11, collaboration between governments, cities, and the private sector is essential. Together, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, C40 cities, and CDP have launched the City-Business Climate Alliance to connect relevant stakeholders and coordinate joint action to create inclusive, safe, and resilient cities.



Target		
11.1	Housing and basic services	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.2	Public transport systems	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3	Sustainable urbanisation	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4	Cultural and natural heritage	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
11.5	Resilience to disasters	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6	Urban air quality and waste management	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
11.7	Urban green and public spaces	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
11.a	Urban planning	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.b	Disaster risk management policies	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
11.c	Sustainable and resilient buildings	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

ARUP 80 CHARLOTTE STREET

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 7.3, 9.4, 11.6, 11.7

Arup, working closely with Derwent London and Make, created London's largest all-electric building, bringing together sustainable solutions for an efficient, low-carbon office, retail and residential space.

The building was engineered for lean material use and flexibility to reduce lifecycle emissions, resulting in 38% lower embodied carbon than the benchmark for an office building.

The site has heat pumps for heating and cooling, which recover and reuse waste heat. While electricity is purchased from ringfenced renewable sources, solar thermal panels are used to pre-heat water. Glass facades are installed strategically to allow more natural daylight into the building while minimising solar gain.

The building also includes a publicly accessible pocket park, providing opportunities for a wide range of people to enjoy nature.

These measures make 80 Charlotte Street's operational efficiency 34% better than Building Regulations.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Although the scale and complexity of many supply chains can complicate business-wide sustainability efforts, it is vital to incorporate circularity considerations across all business operations. The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact encourage companies to scrutinise their current impacts and develop innovative, eco-friendly goods and services.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

According to the UNFCCC, shifting to a circular economy is necessary to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5˚C and therefore fulfil the 2015 Paris Agreement, and the UK's binding commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050.

Beyond governmental agreements, commitments, and mandatory reporting requirements, there are a plethora of business benefits to embedding circularity in company operations, not least the associated competitive advantages sustainable resource management brings. A 2021 Capgemini study reveals that consumers increasingly expect sustainable products and services. Not only are many consumers ready to reduce consumption in general (54%), but they would also like to buy more durable products (72%) and net-zero products (50%), increase product life (70%), repurpose old products (54%), and recycle more (64%). To meet these customer expectations, businesses need to convert unsustainable business practices into more responsible production processes.

Companies with resource-intensive production processes can reduce costs through organisational and product innovation. The EU has estimated €600 million in savings for businesses through waste prevention, eco-design, material reuse, and more.

Finally, a growing and successful economy requires a healthy planet. Long-term productivity and environmental resilience can only be achieved by preserving natural resources as a base for future economic activity and business success. Especially with regard to current crises, using fewer resources allows companies to become more independent from the global price volatility of natural resources.

Private Sector Action on SDG 12

Businesses can move towards a circular economy by developing products with circularity at their core. Material innovation, modular design, recycling, and take-back programmes are examples of how companies can reduce their environmental impact and retain the value of old products.

However, relying on recycling is not enough to mitigate the negative impacts of waste production. Companies can introduce circular business models which, in addition to recycling, include considerations on leasing/renting products and support a sharing economy. Eland Cables, for example, does not only collect cable waste to recycle for their own operations but also generates resources from recycled copper and aluminium that can be used in other industries, such as plumbing (Target 12.5).

8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions are caused by food waste. Although business influence on private households is limited, they can engage with suppliers and farmers to reduce waste generated in production processes. To this end, Tesco set up an exchange platform, an online marketplace for suppliers to sell and buy surplus produce, products, and ingredients (Target 12.3).

ROMAN'S RECYCLING

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 3.9, 6.3, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6

Accredited with ISO 14001:2015 certification, Roman Showers includes circular economy considerations in its operations, especially with regard to eco-design and waste management. While the material for brochures and marketing is made from FSC-certified sources, 93% of the company's waste is recycled, including:

- Wooden pallets recycled for various uses
- Waste glass recycled to make new glass packaging (wine bottles, sauce jars, etc.)
- Aluminium sorted and cleaned for reprocessing
- Cardboard recycled for new packaging, paper, newspaper, books, and magazines

This means that only 7% of the company's total waste is going to landfills.

Roman's products can be recycled and reprocessed for future use in Licensed Recycling Centres (LRCs). For example, the company has developed a shower tray manufactured from recycled materials and fully recyclable and reusable at its end of life. Where people are unable to access their local LRC, Roman offers to organise a product pick-up to support, thus supporting local recycling efforts.

Target		
12.1	**Programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns**	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
12.2	**Sustainable use of natural resources**	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
12.3	**Food waste and losses**	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
12.4	**Managing chemicals and wastes**	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
12.5	**Reduction in waste generation**	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
12.6	**Corporate sustainable practices**	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
12.7	**Public procurement practices**	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
12.8	**Sustainable development awareness**	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
12.a	**Support for research and development capacity for sustainable development**	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
12.b	**Sustainable tourism monitoring**	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
12.c	**Fossil-fuel subsidies**	Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

GLOBAL COMPACT MANAGEMENT MODEL

The tool guides companies of all sizes through the process of formally committing to, assessing, defining, implementing, measuring and communicating a corporate sustainability strategy. The model draws on widely accepted and understood management practices and is designed to maximise corporate sustainability performance.

GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI)

GRI, the world's largest independent standards organisation, provides an internationally comparable sustainability reporting framework, covering business impacts with regard to climate change, human rights, and corruption. Its GRI 206: Waste 2020 Standard, for example, modernises the understanding and measurement of waste, thus encouraging companies to introduce circularity and waste prevention concepts.

TASKFORCE ON NATURE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES (TNFD)

When reporting in line with TNFD standards, companies disclose information on resource efficiency and circular economy solutions (waste, recycling, greenhouse gas emissions, etc.). While TNFD is currently a voluntary disclosure, TNFD will likely be made mandatory in a similar way that the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) reporting has. Beyond reporting requirements, TNFD is also a risk management framework that companies can use to help identify where they need to prioritise action to build resilience against natural risks and where there could be nature-related opportunities to capitalise on.

CIRCULYTICS - A COMPREHENSIVE CIRCULARITY MEASUREMENT TOOL

The tool allows companies to assess the level of circularity already achieved across their operations. It enables companies to see where they stand in relation to their industry, track their progress, and highlight opportunities for innovation.

PLATFORM FOR ACCELERATING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The platform initiated the Circular Economy Action Agenda to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy. Focusing on plastics, textiles, electronics, food, and capital equipment, the organisation identifies, objectives, impacts, barriers, and actions businesses can take to steer away from a linear economic system to more circular operations.

THE CIRCULARITY GAP REPORT 2024

Since 2018, the Circular Economy Foundation publishes regular reports to monitor progress towards a circular economy. The latest report identifies a discrepancy between the popularity of and action towards achieving circularity and, therefore, encourages businesses to change their operations and adopt circular business models.

DECENT WORK TOOLKIT FOR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The toolkit enables companies, procurement professionals and suppliers to develop a common understanding of how to advance decent work through purchasing decisions and scaling up efforts to improve lives around the globe.

GUIDE TO TRACEABILITY

The guide presents practical steps for implementing traceability programmes within companies, features case studies, and maps relevant stakeholders, resources and sustainability issues related to key commodities.

SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY: PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The guide illustrates how companies can implement the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact throughout their supply chains and integrate sustainability into procurement strategies.

CLIMATE ACTION

Although all Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact are connected to sustainability in one way or another, Principles 7, 8, and 9 have environmental considerations at their core. They encourage businesses to move towards more sustainable and responsible environmental business practices, amongst others, by implementing risk assessment, management, and communication processes, as well as developing low-carbon goods and services, cleaner production processes, and pollution prevention technologies.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

According to a 2023 Gallagher study, half of UK businesses are already impacted by the effects of climate change. Extreme weather events, physical damages, and subsequent effects on supply chains are forcing businesses to adapt their operations, leaving more than 70% of business leaders worried about future impacts of climate change. Businesses have an interest in limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5˚C (compared to the currently projected 2.5 - 2.9˚C) to avert increased mitigation costs and obviate operational challenges.

Business benefits of working towards and achieving SDG 13 are numerous. Mitigating climate risks and adaptation measures can support business competitiveness, growth, and development. According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, it costs less to invest in environmental adaptation or mitigation activities earlier than paying damage costs later. Cleaner and more efficient processes also enable companies to save costs by requiring fewer raw materials and increasing resource productivity. Climate action therefore allows companies to manage financial, regulatory, and reputational risks.

There is already a large market for low-carbon and climate change-compatible technologies and services, which is expected to grow further. Therefore, investments in innovation, energy efficiency, and low-carbon technologies are opportunities to convert climate change risks into market opportunities. More sustainable and responsible companies can also benefit from tax incentives and permit programmes specifically designed to encourage positive change.

With around 74% of people in the UK feeling worried about climate change, more and more employees and consumers consequently want to do business with responsible companies, creating a competitive advantage for those adopting sustainable business practices. Thus, companies which develop and implement robust climate transition plans and set ambitious but credible net zero goals can attract better talent and widen their customer base.

Private Sector Action on SDG 13

Businesses can positively contribute to Goal 13 in different areas, including mitigation, resilience and adaptation, and innovation. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential to limiting global warming and mitigating climate change. Companies should set net-zero targets in line with SBTi, one of the most effective ways for companies to align their corporate goals with the Paris Agreement.

To accelerate progress, net-zero targets should include a company's entire value chain. Measuring and reducing Scope 3 emissions, which encompass 70% of corporate emissions, are vital to support supply chain decarbonisation and thus reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. Although companies should set ambitious targets, they should also be credible to avoid the risk of greenwashing and misleading consumers. The UK's Transition Plan Taskforce outlines a framework for creating climate transition plans that are robust and achievable and provides guidance on how to design these in practice.

Furthermore, businesses can implement resilience and adaptation strategies. By diversifying material inputs for production, businesses can become more independent from a specific region or supplier, and thus, from natural disasters impacting resource production. To support such processes, businesses can conduct scenario analyses which help to identify climate risks and allow the development of robust risk management policies. Finally, businesses can invest in nature-based solutions, i.e., actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems, to support their environmental sustainability efforts (Target 13.1).

Climate mitigation and adaptation require further enhancements of products and services. Businesses investing in research and development can boost innovation, e.g., in renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, electrical batteries, and hydrogen fuels, setting the private sector up for more sustainable business operations (Target 13.1, 13.3).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS INITIATIVE (SBTI)

SBTi establishes standards and provides guidance for businesses to set science-based net zero targets and independently assesses and validates those targets. SBTi also develops sector-specific guidance (e.g. apparel and footwear, financial institutions, and power) to account for differences between sectors and suggest specific methodologies, frameworks, and tools to help companies reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

NON-STATE ACTOR ZONE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLATFORM

Within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Paris Agreement (2015), 196 countries have agreed to a legally binding international treaty on climate change, and committed to limiting global temperature increase to well below 2˚C. The Agreement welcomes and encourages private sector action, allowing companies to showcase their work via the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Change Action platform.

FORWARD FASTER

To accelerate progress on climate action, participating companies of the UN Global Compact can sign up for the Forward Faster Initiative and receive guidance on decarbonisation, net zero, just transition plans, rights- and principles-based approaches, and mitigation and adaptation measures.

INTRODUCTION TO JUST TRANSITION: A BUSINESS BRIEF

The business brief by the UN Global Compact lays out a vision to ensure the move to net-zero emissions and climate resilience is orderly, inclusive, and just, and creates decent work opportunities which leave no one behind.

Target		
13.1	**Resilience and adaptive capacity**	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
13.2	**Climate change policies**	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
13.3	**Climate change awareness**	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
13.a	**UNFCCC commitments**	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
13.b	**Climate change planning and management**	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

SSE'S JUST TRANSITION STRATEGY

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 4.4, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3

In November 2020, SSE published its Just Transition Strategy which outlines 20 principles to underpin the consideration of social impacts in delivering net zero. This was the world's first business strategy for a Just Transition. The strategy is framed into two themes: that SSE is transitioning into new, low-carbon activity, while transitioning out of high-carbon operations.

Engagement with a multitude of stakeholder groups (academia, government, trade unions, employees) and cross-reference with international frameworks helped to inform the strategy. SSE's Chief Sustainability Officer is a Commissioner with the Scottish Just Transition Commission.

At the centre of SSE's Just Transition Strategy lies the idea of reaching net zero in the fairest way possible by avoiding inequalities in the first place. The strategy and its 20 principles cover four stakeholder groups:

- **Workers:** Principles for good, green jobs; principles for people in high-carbon jobs
- **Customers:** Principles for consumer fairness
- **Supply chain partners:** Principles for building and operating new assets
- **Communities:** Principles for supporting communities

In April 2023, SSE published its Measuring Progress Report, which not only measures the progress against the 20 principles mentioned above but, as a public document, also represents a standard against which SSE can be held accountable by the public.

LIFE BELOW WATER

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact include, with environmental Principles 7, 8, and 9, provisions to reduce the negative impact on oceans and adopt eco-friendly business strategies.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As an island, the UK is highly dependent on the oceans. 95% of trade products reach the country via the sea, and 500,000 jobs depend on ocean industries, contributing more than £47 billion to the UK economy. Although most businesses rely on maritime resources, the overexploitation of these resources, coupled with pollution and climate change, is threatening the health of our oceans, in turn putting the viability of the maritime industry and the UK's long-term economic growth at risk.

Oceans are the backbone of the global economy. Not only are around 90% of globally traded goods transported via the sea, but the ocean industry and marine livestock contribute significantly to economic activity and food supplies. Although ocean-based trade alone is responsible for 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, healthy marine resources and habitats – such as seagrass and mangroves – play a crucial role in climate mitigation and adaptation by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and providing a natural defence against flooding. Restoring marine ecosystems is therefore vital to slowing down the rate of climate change and reducing long-term mitigation and adaptation costs for business.

Private Sector Action on SDG 14

Ocean health is strongly impacted by economic production activities, especially those which emit high levels of plastic pollution and agricultural run-off. Using less plastic in products and packaging and switching to alternative fertilisers can help a company reduce its impact on the ocean (Target 14.1). Given that about 82% of Britons aim to cut down on plastic, a reduction in plastic-based packaging can help businesses support their consumers to adopt more sustainable habits. To boost innovation and the creation of new products that do not threaten marine ecosystems, businesses can invest in research and development efforts. For greater impact, businesses should also develop robust operational and product control mechanisms across the entire supply chain (Target 14.1).

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) helps companies identify whether their impact on the oceans is material to their organisation. Companies can refer to specific SBTN guidance, which will be released later this year, and set science-based targets for oceans.

To further support the move towards a sustainable ocean economy, businesses can invest in blue bonds and implement ocean-based natural climate solutions, both of which benefit ocean protection projects (Target 14.2). Businesses which rely on the use of critical minerals, e.g., for clean energy technologies, should adopt circularity principles to discourage deep sea mining, which places significant pressure on oceanic food chains and ocean health (Target 14.2).

Finally, businesses dependent on or connected to fishing also have an opportunity to support SDG 14. By reducing overfishing and using sustainable fishing practices, companies can reduce harmful impacts on marine livestock and protect ocean biodiversity (Target 14.4).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PRINCIPLES

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact are supplemented by the Sustainable Ocean Principles, nine principles on ocean health and productivity, governance and engagement, as well as data and transparency to support responsible business activities across all ocean sectors and geographies, with practical guidance on aquaculture, fisheries, ocean renewable energy, oil and gas, ports, seaweed, shipping, and shipyards available.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT FRAMEWORK FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The framework provides a strategy for developing, implementing, and disclosing policies and practices on biodiversity and ecosystem services that are integrated into corporate sustainability strategies.

WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

Businesses can engage with the World Ocean Council, a global business alliance bringing together leaders from shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, renewable energy, ports, dredging, cables, and maritime legal, financial, and insurance communities to coordinate cross-sectoral efforts towards a more sustainable ocean economy.

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Increasing interest in ocean protection has resulted in the organisation of a third UN Ocean Conference, taking place in 2025, allowing businesses to convene with international and government institutions and NGOs to accelerate action on Goal 14. Key takeaways of the last UN Ocean Conference (2022) include the need to scale blue finance, accelerate a sustainable ocean-based industry, and increase government policies.

Target		
14.1	Marine pollution	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.2	Marine and coastal ecosystems	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.3	Ocean acidification	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
14.4	Sustainable fishing	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.5	Conservation of coastal areas	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.6	Fisheries subsidies	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
14.7	Marine resources for small island development states and least developed countries	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
14.a	Research capacity and marine technology	Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing states and least developed countries
14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
14.c	Implementing UNCLOS	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

ØRN WORKWEAR’S EARTHPRO® RANGE

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 6.3, 6.5, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1

In 2021, ØRN Workwear launched its EarthPro® range using post-consumer recycled polyester. The plastic required for ØRN’s collection of workwear comes from materials (such as old fishing nets) that have been collected and recycled from seas and rivers. This is certified by the Global Recycled Standard and Recycled Content Standard, ensuring that the company’s recycling claims are correct and maintained throughout the supply chain.

ØRN’s products are certified by OEKO-TEX Standard 100, ensuring all garments are dyed without the use of carcinogenic chemicals, i.e., hazardous substances which are thought to cause cancer. Furthermore, ØRN ensures that efficient water treatment operations are in place and are verified by local independent auditors.

Finally, the business recycles any EarthPro® garment returned to the company to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, in turn decreasing the potential contamination of surface water and groundwater resources.

LIFE ON LAND

Principles 7, 8, and 9 of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact focus on corporate responsibility with regard to environmental considerations, urging businesses to carefully assess business practices to avoid environmental degradation.

ENVIRONMENT

TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7 **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8** **TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9**

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

As the sixth-largest economy in the world, the UK imports and consumes a variety of goods. UK-imported beef and leather, cocoa, palm oil, pulp and paper, rubber, soy, and timber – the main products contributing to deforestation and biodiversity loss overseas – have a land footprint equivalent to 88% of the UK's surface every year. Sustainable land management is becoming increasingly necessary to ensure future food and water security, mitigate climate change, and support economic development.

According to the UEBT Biodiversity Barometer, awareness about biodiversity is growing in the UK, especially among younger generations. However, consumers have reported difficulties identifying business leaders in the field. Thus, companies taking action on biodiversity have the potential to differentiate themselves from their peers, build competitive advantage, and attract more customers.

Businesses rely on nature and biodiversity for the ecosystem services they provide ranging from food provision to water purification, hazard protection, and nitrogen regulation. Forests naturally regulate water systems, a resource that all businesses and employees rely on. Furthermore, biodiverse and carbon-rich ecosystems play a vital role in absorbing carbon and purifying the air, which in turn protects the health of workers and can consequently enhance economic productivity.

Private Sector Action on SDG 15

By investing in nature-based solutions, businesses can protect natural ecosystems and prevent their degradation. This includes rethinking corporate land use practices which currently destroy natural habitats (Target 15.1, 15.5). SSE, for example, identifies a 'biodiversity value' for each of its development sites. Taking the specific conditions of the habitat into account, projects aim to mitigate biodiversity losses and maximise biodiversity gains by quantifying pre- and post-development biodiversity values.

Furthermore, companies can contribute to SDG 15 by identifying, disclosing, and taking action to address their nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities. Setting science-based targets through the Science Based Targets Network and implementing actions in line with the mitigation hierarchy that underpins the AR3T Action Framework can help businesses contribute towards protecting and restoring biodiversity. Following the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) recommendations shows commitment to reversing biodiversity loss and allows companies to illustrate how they are planning to act on evolving nature-related risks and achieve their targets (Target 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.8).

Reversing deforestation and land degradation while upholding profitable business models comes with opportunities for business and market growth and innovation. New ways of financing sustainable land and forest management are emerging, such as voluntary carbon markets or sustainable tourism models.

MONICA VINADER'S MONICA'S MEADOW PROJECT

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 2.5, 6.6, 12.6, 15.1, 15.3, 15.5, 15.a

Monica's Meadow is Monica Vinader's five-year project to restore seven hectares of degraded farmland close to its head office in Norfolk. At the beginning of the project, the company analysed the soil, air, and water quality as well as the biodiversity value and mix of species on the land. Using metrics from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) standard, the land obtained a score of 26/100.

The company set the goal to increase the value of the site to at least 61/100 by 2027. It has implemented different measures to support the regeneration of nature and biodiversity. Not only has Monica Vinader created a pond and planted seed mixes to increase biodiversity and wildlife, but the business is also working closely with a local environmentalist to implement specific solutions that take into account the local context of the land area.

The change in land use and the implementation of biodiversity measures have seen their first successes, e.g., with cornflowers returning to the site. The first bloom of the meadow is expected in May 2024.

Target		
15.1	Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2	Sustainable forests management	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
15.3	Desertification and land degradation	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosystems	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
15.5	Loss of biodiversity	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
15.6	Utilisation of genetic resource	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
15.7	Protected species trafficking	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8	Invasive alien species	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
15.9	Biodiversity in national and local planning	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
15.a	Resources for biodiversity and ecosystems	Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
15.b	Resources for forest management	Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
15.c	Protected species trafficking (global)	Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UN GLOBAL COMPACT FRAMEWORK FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The framework provides a strategy for developing, implementing, and disclosing policies and practices on biodiversity and ecosystem services that are integrated into corporate sustainability strategies.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)

FSC sets standards for responsible forest management and provides certification, not only for forest managers, but also across supply chains, i.e., processing, manufacturing, and distribution companies.

THE NATURE STRATEGY HANDBOOK

Developed by Business for Nature, the guide supports businesses in developing nature strategies for contributing to a nature-positive world (i.e., halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 and achieving full nature recovery by 2050). The guidance is in line with recent disclosure regulations, including the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the Science Based Targets Network, and more.

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

The Rainforest Alliance provides support for businesses, including technical assistance and training, supply chain management and sourcing, and certification and assurance.

SECTOR ACTIONS TOWARDS A NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE

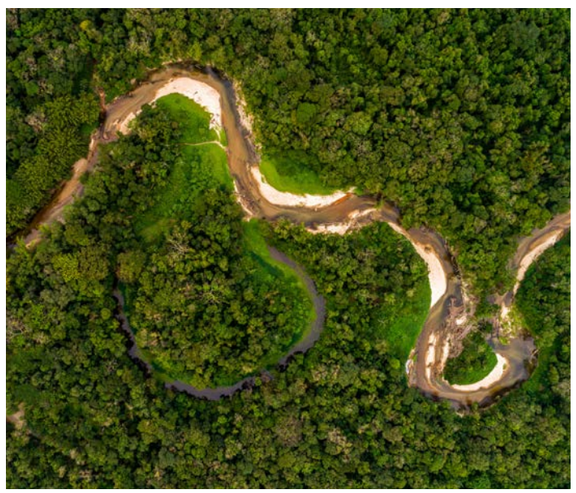
Business for Nature, in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, developed sector-specific guidance for 12 sectors to support businesses in halting and reversing nature loss. Businesses in agri-food, built environment, chemicals, cement and concrete, energy, fashion and apparel, financial services, forest products, household and personal care products, travel and tourism, waste management, and water utilities and services sectors can refer to reports outlining key impacts, dependencies, and priority actions of each sector.

FOREST POSITIVE COALITION

The Forest Positive Coalition, initiated by the Consumer Goods Forum, brings together retail, manufacturing, and service provider companies who want to accelerate action on a forest-positive future. Members collaborate in five key areas, i.e., ensuring a forest-positive supply of commodities, engaging with upstream supply chain partners, identifying and responding to grievances, identifying and engaging priority production landscapes, and increasing transparency and accountability.

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK RESOURCES

The Science Based Targets Network provides a variety of guidance for companies, including support for companies in starting to set science-based targets for nature as well as step-by-step guides and tools for target-setting.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Peace, justice, and strong institutions are fundamental to upholding the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Companies commit to a principles-based approach to doing business, actively contributing to the protection and support of human rights (Principles 1 and 2), labour rights (Principles 3, 4, 5, and 6), and fighting corruption (Principle 10).

HUMAN RIGHTS
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1.
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2.

LABOUR
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 3.
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4.
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5.
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6.

ANTI-CORRUPTION
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 10.

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Confidence and trust in business among investors, customers, employees, and the public have been eroded by recent waves of business ethics scandals around the globe. Companies are increasingly being held responsible for not paying enough attention to the actions of their employees, associated companies, business partners, and agents.

SDG 16 addresses different corporate sustainability issues: anti-corruption, transformational governance, peace, and the rule of law. The rapid development of corporate governance rules worldwide is also prompting companies to focus on anti-corruption measures as part of their mechanisms to express corporate sustainability and protect their reputations and stakeholders' interests. Their anti-corruption systems are increasingly being extended to a range of ethics and integrity issues, and a growing number of investment managers are looking to these systems as evidence that companies undertake good and well-managed business practices.

There are various business benefits to promoting and advancing SDG 16. Anti-corruption, bribery, and extortion have negative impacts on business growth, not only because they increase transaction costs, but also because corrupt practices create an unlevel playing field in the corporate landscape.

Furthermore, the rule of law is fundamentally important for long-term economic success. Just, strong, and accountable institutions enable a higher degree of commercial certainty, increasing and safeguarding long-term investment, supporting economic growth, and promoting sustainable (economic) development.

Lastly, companies should react to increasing expectations of consumers, investors, governments, and employees. Consumers want to engage with responsible businesses which do not engage in harmful practices. Companies can also become more attractive to investors when they support anti-corruption, peace, rule of law, and transformational governance issues. Added to that, increasing government regulations will require companies to become more transparent by reporting on their ESG performance and disclosing plans to tackle shortcomings in their business and supply chains. Finally, implementing SDG 16 values can increase employee well-being, engagement, and retention, thus positively contributing to business productivity, performance, and growth.

With a large proportion of companies reporting against sustainability issues aligned with the SDGs and the Ten Principles, private sector priorities remain Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). Although only 25% of businesses identify SDG 16 as relevant to their operations, it might be one of the most significant ones for business success.

Private Sector Action on SDG 16

To contribute to peace, justice, and strong institutions, businesses should work towards achieving zero violence, abuse, exploitation, and corruption in their own operations and across their supply chains, and support victims of such practices (Target 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5). Vodafone, for example, uncovered in partnership with the polling service Opinium that 37% of working adults had experienced domestic abuse, resulting in significant impacts on the affected person's career. In consequence, the company introduced a support policy, granting ten paid 'safe leave' days to survivors of domestic violence, and introducing training for human resources professionals and line managers to identify and support survivors of abuse.

To support their efforts, companies can engage with international bodies and governments through responsible advocacy and policy engagement, advancing SDG 16 values. Nestlé, for example, has developed a policy that applies to its interactions with public authorities in relation to public policy development and implementation. The company thus aims to communicate its advocacy priorities and objectives transparently.

Internally, businesses should protect human and labour rights. By setting quality standards and implementing risk management and compliance checks, businesses can measure their progress and create transparency and accountability. This includes the transparency of financial flows and decisions as well as supply chain management practices (Target 16.1, 16.2, 16.5).

Tackling corruption is vital for employee well-being and business growth. Businesses can implement anti-corruption efforts by creating a corporate culture and value proposition which run through the entire organisation. To set up robust control mechanisms, oversight of business decisions can be shared between different parts of the organisation, including boards, committees, and management positions. Companies can also create anti-corruption policies and processes, such as ethics and compliance programmes, contract provision standards as well as due diligence and grievance mechanisms (Target 16.5). Kingfisher, for example, has set up and updated its Code of Conduct to manage sustainability and ethical behaviour. The Code of Conduct is not only embedded in all partnership agreements, but the company has also introduced an annual Code of Conduct training for all employees to disseminate the policy across the organisation. Breaches of the Code of Conduct can be reported by employees and suppliers to an external and confidential whistleblowing hotline.

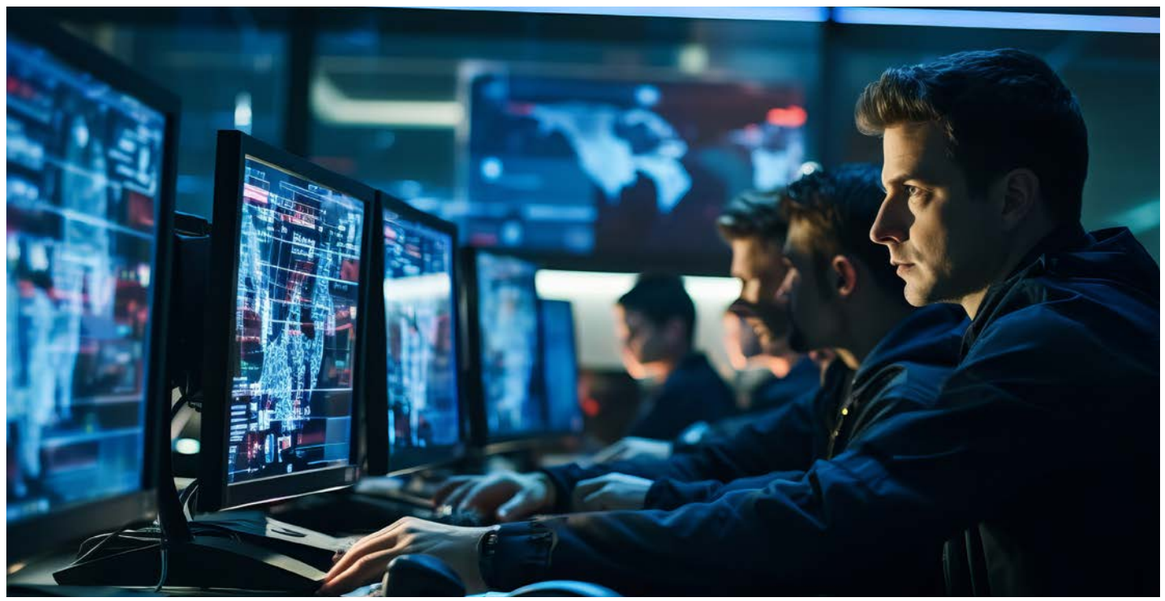
CLIFFORD CHANCE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16,7

Clifford Chance's approach to responsible business is exemplified by its values-driven Code of Conduct – which drives the way the firm conducts its business, and encompasses its professional and ethical standards and policies. The Code is core to fostering the firm's responsible, accountable, inclusive, and integrous business culture. Clifford Chance has a Responsible Business Board, which is integrated into the company's management structure with a mandate to develop and oversee the responsible business strategy.

The firm's Code was developed by a team at the firm led by the then Senior Partner, and continues to be embedded through workshops led by internal facilitators. Since the Code was introduced in 2021, 163 Code workshops have been run, attended by about 3,000 employees. In 2022, the company furthermore introduced its 'Speak Up' programme, to encourage and support employees to contribute ideas and call out behaviour not aligned with the Code's principles. The programme included Speak Up training, which was completed by 82% of employees.

Target		
16.1	Reduction of violence and related deaths	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.2	Human trafficking	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
16.3	Justice for all	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.4	Illicit financial and arms flows	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
16.5	Corruption and bribery	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
16.6	Effective institutions	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
16.7	Inclusive decision-making	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
16.8	Inclusive global governance	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
16.9	Legal identity	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.10	Public access to information	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
16.a	Capacity to prevent violence	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
16.b	Non-discriminatory laws	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development



TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

SDG 16 BUSINESS FRAMEWORK

The Framework provides companies with guidance on strengthening business culture, ethics and performance and supporting public institutions, laws and systems. It sets out the theory of transformational governance and how it is underpinned by the targets and tenets of SDG 16: peace, justice and strong institutions.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

One company's actions, while critical, are not enough to end corruption. Companies should join forces with governments, community-based organisations, NGOs, and other businesses to act collectively against corruption.

BUSINESS FOR PEACE

When companies and investors work to address these complex issues, they can mitigate the related risks and negative impacts. They can also ensure the long-term financial performance of the business, and play an important role in supporting peace and development.

BUSINESS FOR THE RULE OF LAW

Businesses can refer to the Business for the Rule of Law Framework to complement government action, thus supporting the protection of investments, property rights (including intellectual property), contractual rights, and legal identity.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Transparency International, the biggest global anti-corruption organisation, provides guidance on business integrity and publishes resources on procedures, risk assessment, due diligence, political engagement, and more.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

All of the SDGs, and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, can be achieved more easily, quickly, and comprehensively in partnership with international organisations, governments, businesses, and civil society.

HUMAN RIGHTS	LABOUR	ENVIRONMENT	ANTI-CORRUPTION
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 1.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 3.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 7.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 10.
TIED TO PRINCIPLE 2.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 4.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 8.	
	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 5.	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 9.	
	TIED TO PRINCIPLE 6.		

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A 2019 study analysed insights from more than 1,000 business leaders to identify challenges and opportunities of business contribution to the SDGs, which revealed the need for new levels of collaboration and partnerships to accelerate action on the Goals. Bringing together different stakeholders for solutions-based discussions on system-level challenges, shaping and advocating consistent standards as well as building bridges between the private sector and local/national governments are necessary steps towards more non-competitive collaboration to advance the Goals.

Since achieving the SDGs has the potential to unlock numerous advantages, strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate action on the Goals can only support business benefits. Sharing best practices and actively engaging with others to advance the Goals shows commitment to Agenda 2030.

As customers increasingly expect responsible business practices, this helps build brand reputation and attract a bigger and wider customer base. The same applies to investors and business partners who increasingly seek out opportunities with SDG-aligned businesses. Furthermore, partnerships allow companies to engage with other relevant stakeholders across and outside their value chain, allowing them to learn good practices and escalate responsible business practices, which can enable them to mitigate risk and reduce operational costs for their organisation.

Private Sector Action on SDG 17

There are different kinds of partnerships of relevance for businesses. To start, companies can focus on implementing the SDGs across their operations and value chains. Bringing skills, resources, and technologies together allows companies to identify the most sustainable and efficient innovations to adapt their activities.

Sector initiatives bring relevant industry leaders together, not only to help each other overcome similar challenges but also to share best practices and work towards raising labour and environmental business standards (Target 17.16). Tesco, Sainsbury's, Co-op, Waitrose, and M&S have joined together for the first time, in partnership with WWF, to halve the environmental impact of UK shopping baskets by 2030. These supermarkets combined reach more than 50% of UK food shoppers. The supermarkets use the WWF Basket, a comprehensive framework that details the outcomes, measurements, and actions required to halve the impact of UK baskets. By adopting the WWF Basket, the five retailers are leading the way in partnerships for sustainable development, reducing the impact of food production on habitat destruction and biodiversity loss and promoting healthier diet choices for consumers.

Finally, multi-stakeholder partnerships are the most complex but most comprehensive partnerships. To achieve the SDGs and address major global challenges, governments, private sector, and civil society can work together to share knowledge and unlock finance (Target 17.17). Compass Group, a multinational food service company, has recently announced its partnership with Giki, a social enterprise and B-Corp helping people cut carbon. Compass Group employees get access to the Giki platform, where they can calculate their carbon footprint and receive up to 150 practical measures to reduce their carbon footprint.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The UN Global Compact can help businesses find partnerships, be it with private sector or non-profit members, or connect them to local UN offices. Peer learning and networking opportunities, such as webinars, working groups, and private sector fora enable knowledge exchange and help scale up sustainability solutions. For industry- or commitment-specific engagement opportunities, businesses can refer to networks such as the Joint Alliance for CSR or the Water Action Hub.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY EXPLORER

The Global Opportunity Explorer provides the global business community with direct access to the most innovative business solutions and emerging market opportunities to help achieve and understand the SDGs, end extreme poverty, reduce inequality and protect our planet. A joint project of DNV GL, Sustainia and the UN Global Compact, the Explorer is a digital platform that helps business leaders, entrepreneurs and investors connect with new partners, projects, markets and talents to deliver on the SDGs.

CFO COALITION FOR THE SDGS

The CFO Coalition for the SDGs aims to accelerate progress in aligning corporate investments with the SDGs and linking corporate finance to relevant and credible SDG targets.

VICTORY HILL CAPITAL PARTNERS' SDG ANALYSIS

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 7.2, 13.2, 17.3, 17.16

As a global specialist investment firm, Victory Hill Capital Partners targets energy infrastructure and other companies contributing to the SDGs. To realise the energy transition, the company supports energy diversification as well as the development of renewable energy infrastructure and low-carbon and clean energy technologies.

Before any investment is made, the company conducts an SDG analysis with regard to certain sustainability eligibility criteria in line with the Goals. The company adopts a context-specific approach to better understand the positive and negative impacts of their investments. It is thus built into the business strategy that if an investment does not have a positive sustainability impact, it will not be pursued.

Victory Hill Capital Partners recognises the importance of creating long term sustainability together with financial value. Robust ESG practices enable companies to manage risks, increase operational efficiency, tap into new market opportunities, address changing investor demands, and adapt to regulatory changes, all while contributing to long-term financial performance.

Target		
17.1	Tax and other revenue collection	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
17.2	ODA commitment by developing countries	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
17.3	Additional financial resources	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.4	Debt sustainability	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
17.5	Investment promotion of least developed countries	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries
17.6	Science and technology international cooperation	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
17.7	Transfer of technologies	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
17.8	Capacity building for science, technology, and innovation	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
17.9	Capacity building for SDGs	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
17.10	Multilateral trading system (WTO)	Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
17.11	Exports of developing countries	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
17.12	Duty-free market access for least developed countries	Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access
17.13	Global macroeconomic stability	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
17.14	Policy coherence for sustainable development	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15	Respect country's policy space	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
17.16	Global partnership for sustainable development	Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17	Partnerships (public, private, CSO)	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
17.18	National statistics availability	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing states, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
17.19	Statistical capacity	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

EUNETWORKS' STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG TARGETS 4.4, 4.5, 10.2, 10.3, 15.2, 15.a, 17.16, 17.17

euNetworks places great value on collaborating with civil society organisations to advance the SDGs.

For example, the company works with LDN Apprenticeships to grow its apprenticeship programme. Since 2013, 39 apprentices joined the organisation, most of whom have stayed at euNetworks after finishing the programme. euNetworks aims to attract a diverse talent pool, including women, people from non-white backgrounds, and those with neurodiversity challenges, special educational needs, and disabilities.

The company also supports Young Enterprise, an organisation supporting young people in developing their employability skills. euNetworks does not only provide funding but also gets involved with volunteering, contributing to CV writing, and interview techniques workshops. Since 2022, euNetworks volunteers also provide feedback and guidance for students developing business ideas and products.

Furthermore, euNetworks is partnering with Host in Ireland, an ecological organisation supporting biodiversity in the country. The initiative, supported by euNetworks and other contributors, has planted more than 2000 mixed fruit orchards, creating more green spaces in urban areas and providing a habitat for diverse species, especially bees.

euNetworks' partnership with KidsOut focuses on disadvantaged children. Volunteers identify opportunities to bring joy to children, for example by collecting and donating toys.

Finally, euNetworks' German team collaborated with 41 other companies through the Racks4Roots initiative, planting over 11,700 trees in the Bavarian forest.

POLICYMAKER ASKS

While the previous chapters illustrate some of the many examples of businesses advancing positive SDG impact, we have a long way to go until the SDGs are realised in the UK. Achieving substantial progress in the six years left is possible, but only if public, private and non-profit actors work more closely together with a clear game plan.

To harness the full potential of the private sector, the right policies must be in place to enable action on the SDGs and the Ten Principles. 80% of businesses claim that insufficient policy incentives to incorporate the SDGs into business strategy are hindering progress. To drive SDG impact, businesses must feel that governments are engaging, supporting, and partnering with them to lead the necessary transformation ahead of 2030. Businesses can join the UN Global Compact Network UK in shaping a responsible business environment by calling on policymakers to support SDG Action in these areas:

TRANSFORM THE BASIS OF BUSINESS TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

According to the SDG Stocktake, the top policy ask from business leaders is more consistent sustainability reporting and disclosure mandates (76%). This helps ensure all businesses are held to the same standard both nationally and globally.

The Government should therefore:

1. Update its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights at the earliest possible time. Any update should mandate in-depth Modern Slavery Statements.

2. Bring forward legislation to mandate companies to carry out human rights and environmental due diligence.

3. Drive change in the design and implementation of equal opportunity, flexible working policies to advance gender equality, and reduce inequalities. These policies should include the offer of paid shared parental leave as a minimum while working towards a mandatory model which provides a period of leave for both parents.

4. Undertake a review of gender pay gap reporting and extend it to organisations with less than 250 employees, introduce ethnicity gender pay gap reporting on the same basis, and make action plans to close gaps mandatory.

ACCELERATE ACTION TO ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Businesses overwhelmingly support a range of stronger policies to strengthen environmental protection.

The Government should:

1. Take a more proactive role and set the strategic direction to accelerate the green transition required across all sectors, to reach net zero by 2050.

2. Follow the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee on climate risk and adaptation strategies. Of these recommendations, most critical is that the next National Adaptation Programme's level of ambition must be in line with the SDGs, and there must be a shift in focus towards the delivery of effective adaptation. Through updated National Transition Plans and National Adaptation Programmes, the Government can mobilise the private sector to decarbonise faster.

3. Update the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAPs) in line with commitments of global biodiversity frameworks.

4. Introduce nature-related guidance for companies by 2025.

CONCLUSION

In 2015, all Member States of the United Nations committed to the same goal: achieving a better future for all until 2030. As part of this Agenda 2030, the 17 SDGs lay out a path towards ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and protecting the planet. Together with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, the ethical and practical guidelines for corporate responsibility, the SDGs provide the necessary framework, values, and long-term vision to help businesses contribute to creating the world we want.

This universally agreed blueprint is increasingly supported by emerging sustainability reporting standards, requiring companies to understand business risks, impacts, and opportunities as well as putting forward plans to adopt more sustainable business operations. Mapping positive and negative impacts on the SDGs allows companies identify their most important areas of action. Materiality assessments can help businesses pinpoint their high-impact areas, enabling them to prioritise resources accordingly and implement the most beneficial policies and procedures.

Engaging with the SDGs comes with a variety of business benefits. Most of them are comparable across the 17 Goals, e.g., regulatory readiness, customer, employee, and investor satisfaction, increased business productivity and profitability, and reduced long-term operational and mitigation costs.

All 17 SDGs are highly interconnected. However, progress on one SDG does not necessarily mean progress on others. Since each SDG cannot be considered in isolation, every sustainability measure should include reflections on potential positive and negative consequences, making sure to further the overall agenda.

Achieving the Goals requires a collaborative approach – governments, the private sector, and civil society need to work together to accelerate action on the SDGs. Although each organisation can do their part, it is vitally important to combine resources as well as push each other towards more ambitious sustainability action. Businesses can drive SDG-aligned policy advocacy, encouraging the government to implement more rigorous policies on modern slavery, human rights due diligence, equal opportunities, net zero, just transition, climate risk and adaptation, and biodiversity. This will not only drive government progress on the SDGs but also make it easier for businesses to accelerate action on the Goals.

We have six years left to achieve the SDGs and build the basis for a sustainable and prosperous future for all – who now places sustainability at the core of their business model will be rewarded with future success.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SDG STOCKTAKE: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The SDG Stocktake, produced by Accenture in partnership with the UN Global Compact, offers an appraisal of the private sector contributions to the SDGs thus far and charts out a detailed path for businesses to make an accelerated impact ahead of 2030.

The Stocktake found that 96% of business leaders agree that businesses play a crucial role in achieving the Goals. The report highlights examples of businesses engaging effectively to contribute to the Goals as well as how they are measuring and reporting on their impacts.

The report also puts forth ten key pathways, from innovating responsibly to protecting nature, as well as supporting policymaker asks, to accelerate the ambitious action needed of the private sector to move us forward, faster.

SDG PLAYBOOK FOR SMES

There is a multifaceted business case for smaller companies to embrace sustainability. Stakeholders – from regulators to investors to customers to employees – expect all companies to improve their sustainability performance and they are ready to reward companies that embrace this agenda and punish those that do not.

However, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) consistently report difficulties with embedding the SDGs at the core of their business models.

The UN Global Compact Network UK, in partnership with Irwin Mitchell, has developed the SDG Playbook for SMEs: a step-by-step guide to help smaller companies unlock the competitive advantages associated with embracing the SDGs.

LGBTIQ+ INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

For those who identify as LGBTIQ+, the workplace should not be a source of anxiety - businesses have a responsibility to foster a culture of real inclusivity with the many benefits that it provides, including happy and high-performing teams. Companies looking to attract and retain talent, improve workplace satisfaction, and enhance their reputation should be creating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+)- inclusive workplaces.

The UN Global Compact Network UK has created the 'LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in the Workplace' resource to support businesses in accelerating their LGBTIQ+-inclusion initiatives and creating a safer environment for their employees who are members of the community. The resource offers practical steps and policy implementations that businesses should adopt to support the entirety of their workforce.

OVERVIEW OF THE SDG TARGETS

SDG 1	No Poverty
1.1	Extreme poverty
1.2	National poverty
1.3	Social protection
1.4	Access to basic services
1.5	Resilience to disasters
1.a	Resources for poverty programmes
1.b	Poverty eradication policies

SDG 2	Zero Hunger
2.1	Undernourishment and food security
2.2	Malnutrition
2.3	Small-scale food producers
2.4	Sustainable agriculture
2.5	Genetic resources for agriculture
2.a	Investment in agriculture
2.b	Agricultural export subsidies
2.c	Food price anomalies

SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being
3.1	Maternal mortality
3.2	Child mortality
3.3	Communicable diseases
3.4	Noncommunicable diseases and mental health
3.5	Substance abuse
3.6	Road traffic accidents
3.7	Sexual and reproductive health
3.8	Universal health coverage
3.9	Health impact of pollution
3.a	Tobacco control
3.b	Research and Development for health
3.c	Health financing & workforce
3.d	Strengthen country capacity

SDG 4	Quality Education
4.1	Effective learning outcomes
4.2	Early childhood development
4.3	Technical and vocational education and training and tertiary education
4.4	Skills for employment
4.5	Equal access to education
4.6	Adult literacy and numeracy
4.7	Sustainable development education
4.a	Education facilities
4.b	Scholarships
4.c	Qualified teachers

SDG 5	Gender Equality
5.1	Discrimination against women and girls
5.2	Violence against women and girls
5.3	Early marriage
5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work
5.5	Women in leadership
5.6	Reproductive health access and rights
5.a	Equal economic rights
5.b	Technology for women empowerment
5.c	Gender equality policies

SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
6.1	Safe drinking water
6.2	Access to sanitation and hygiene
6.3	Water quality
6.4	Water-use efficiency
6.5	Transboundary water cooperation
6.6	Water-related ecosystems
6.a	International cooperation on water and sanitation
6.b	Participatory water and sanitation management

SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
7.1	Access to energy services
7.2	Share of renewable energy
7.3	Energy efficiency
7.a	International cooperation on energy
7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure

SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
8.1	Per capita economic growth
8.2	Economic productivity and innovation
8.3	Formalisation of SMEs
8.4	Material resource efficiency
8.5	Full employment and decent work
8.6	Youth not in employment, education, or training
8.7	Child and forced labour
8.8	Labour rights and safe working environment
8.9	Sustainable tourism
8.10	Access to financial services
8.a	Aid for trade
8.b	Strategy for youth employment

SDG 9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
9.1	Infrastructure development
9.2	Sustainable and inclusive industrialisation
9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance
9.4	Sustainable and clean industries
9.5	Research and development
9.a	Resilient infrastructure
9.b	Domestic technology development
9.c	Access to information and communications technology and the internet

SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities
10.1	Income growth (bottom 40%)
10.2	Social, economic, and political inclusion
10.3	Eliminate discrimination
10.4	Fiscal and social protection policies
10.5	Regulation of financial markets
10.6	Inclusive global governance
10.7	Safe migration and mobility
10.a	Special and differential treatment (WTO)
10.b	Resource flows for development
10.c	Remittance costs

SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
11.1	Housing and basic services
11.2	Public transport systems
11.3	Sustainable urbanisation
11.4	Cultural and natural heritage
11.5	Resilience to disasters
11.6	Urban air quality and waste management
11.7	Urban green and public spaces
11.a	Urban planning
11.b	Disaster risk management policies
11.c	Sustainable and resilient buildings

SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
12.1	Programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns
12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources
12.3	Food waste and losses
12.4	Managing chemicals and wastes
12.5	Reduction in waste generation
12.6	Corporate sustainable practices
12.7	Public procurement practices
12.8	Sustainable development awareness
12.a	Support for research and development capacity for sustainable development
12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring
12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies

SDG 13	Climate Action
13.1	Resilience and adaptive capacity
13.2	Climate change policies
13.3	Climate change awareness
13.a	UNFCCC commitments
13.b	Climate change planning and management

SDG 14	Life below Water
14.1	Marine pollution
14.2	Marine and coastal ecosystems
14.3	Ocean acidification
14.4	Sustainable fishing
14.5	Conservation of coastal areas
14.6	Fisheries subsidies
14.7	Marine resources for small island development states and least developed countries
14.a	Research capacity and marine technology
14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing
14.c	Implementing UNCLOS

SDG 15	Life on Land
15.1	Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems
15.2	Sustainable forests management
15.3	Desertification and land degradation
15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosystems
15.5	Loss of biodiversity
15.6	Utilisation of genetic resource
15.7	Protected species trafficking
15.8	Invasive alien species
15.9	Biodiversity in national and local planning
15.a	Resources for biodiversity and ecosystems
15.b	Resources for forest management
15.c	Protected species trafficking (global)

SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
16.1	Reduction of violence and related deaths
16.2	Human trafficking
16.3	Justice for all
16.4	Illicit financial and arms flows
16.5	Corruption and bribery
16.6	Effective institutions
16.7	Inclusive decision-making
16.8	Inclusive global governance
16.9	Legal identity
16.10	Public access to information
16.a	Capacity to prevent violence
16.b	Non-discriminatory laws

SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals
17.1	Tax and other revenue collection
17.2	ODA commitment by developing countries
17.3	Additional financial resources
17.4	Debt sustainability
17.5	Investment promotion of least developed countries
17.6	Science and technology international cooperation
17.7	Transfer of technologies
17.8	Capacity building for science, technology, and innovation
17.9	Capacity building for SDGs
17.10	Multilateral trading system (WTO)
17.11	Exports of developing countries
17.12	Duty-free market access for least developed countries
17.13	Global macroeconomic stability
17.14	Policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15	Respect country's policy space
17.16	Global partnership for sustainable development
17.17	Partnerships (public, private, CSO)
17.18	National statistics availability
17.19	Statistical capacity

ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

As a special initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the UN Global Compact is a call to companies worldwide to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

Its ambition is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through ambitious, accountable companies, and environments that enable change. With more than 21,000 companies and 3,300 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 62 Local Networks, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative — one Global Compact uniting business for a better world.

For more information, visit www.unglobalcompact.org

ABOUT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK UK

The UN Global Compact Network UK is part of the world's largest responsible business initiative, the United Nations Global Compact, connecting UK companies and other organisations in a global movement dedicated to driving sustainable growth. Through an extensive programme of activity, it promotes sustainability leadership to create a world we want to live and do business in, by inspiring ambition, enabling action, and collaborating to shape the business environment.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, rooted in UN treaties, provide a robust foundation for corporate sustainability and business action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information, follow us on LinkedIn (UN Global Compact Network UK) or visit unglobalcompact.org.uk

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