



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367  
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: [web@denr.gov.ph](mailto:web@denr.gov.ph)

## MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Mines and Geoscience Bureau  
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

FROM : The OIC Director  
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS/INPUTS ON THE INVITATION  
OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT GROUP OF FRIENDS**

DATE : **23 JAN 2023**

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This refers to the letter dated 13 January 2023 of Assistant Secretary Kira Christianne D. Azucena of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), requesting for comments on the Philippines' possible membership and co-chairing of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends.

### Background

- The UN Global Compact is the United Nations Secretary-General's strategic policy and advocacy initiative calling for the alignment of business operations and strategies with 10 universal principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. It is meant to strengthen the engagement of the UN with the private sector in support of the UN goals, including the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The DFA recommends the positive consideration of the Philippines' membership in the UN Global Compact Group of Friends because the membership may play a role in forging stronger partnership with the private sector to deliver more benefits to the public in line with the recently-adopted Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.
- Moreover, the UN Global Compact Group of Friends currently has fifty-five (55) members, a number of which are strong bilateral partners of the Philippines.
- There are 42 companies in the country that adhere to the principles and format part of the UN Global Compact, which can be accessed thru the following link:  
<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/search?search%5Bcountries%5D%5B%5D=158>

- Further, there is no financial requirement/obligation to join the Group of Friends, which requires only an investment in time and active participation.
- A Filipino national is currently part of the UN Global Compact Team. Mr. Harold Heredia, a former employee of the Philippine Mission in New York, is currently focal Secretariat support for the UN Global Compact Group of Friends. Should the Philippines decide to join, Mr. Heredia would be able to facilitate the arrangement of meetings between NEDA, DENR and DFA and the UN Global local network, to be held in Manila by the first half of the year.

### **Action Requested**

In this regard, we would like to request your comments/inputs on the following:

1. The possible membership and co-chairing of the Philippines to the UN Global Compact Group of Friends (*you may access <https://www.unglobalcompact.org> for more details*);
2. Possible priority areas to focus in forging partnerships through the UN Global Compact Group of Friends; and
3. UN Global Compact Group of Friends' Terms of Reference (*attached*).

Due to its urgent nature, we would appreciate receiving your feedback **on or before 25 January 2023**, send to: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) and/or [policy@denr.gov.ph](mailto:policy@denr.gov.ph), in order to facilitate the submission of the Department's comments to the DFA. Attached also is the letter of the DFA for your ready reference.

For your information and appropriate action, please.

  
**MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

13 January 2023

Sir:

The Philippines has been invited to join and co-chair the UN Global Compact Group of Friends representing the Global South/developing world.

Launched in 1999, the UN Global Compact is the United Nations Secretary-General's strategic policy and advocacy initiative calling for the alignment of business operations and strategies with 10 universal principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. It is meant to strengthen the engagement of the UN with the private sector in support of the UN goals, including the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. Sandra Ojiambo is the Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Global Compact, having been appointed by UN Secretary General in early 2022.

The Department recommends the positive consideration of the Philippines' membership in the UN Global Compact Group of Friends based on the following:

- The President recognizes the important role of, and actively encourages and engages, the private sector in policy planning, making and implementation of the country's development priorities. In the recently-adopted Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, the President underscores in his message that *"every Filipino has a part to play in our nation's journey to prosperity. The need for united and coordinated efforts of the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, has grown ever more vital as we enter into new years of post-pandemic recovery and as global headwinds threaten to derail our progress as a people."* There is a clear directive for a stronger partnership with the private sector to deliver more benefits to the public;
- The UN Global Compact Group of Friends currently has fifty-five (55) members, a number of which are strong bilateral partners of the Philippines;<sup>1</sup>

[PLEASE SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST]

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<sup>1</sup> African Union, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kingdom of Morocco, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, People's Republic of China, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America.

- There are 42 companies in the country that adhere to the principles and format part of the UN Global Compact, with the complete list to be accessed at the link [\[https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/search?search%5Bcountries%5D%5B%5D=158\]](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/search?search%5Bcountries%5D%5B%5D=158)
- There is no financial requirement/obligation to join the Group of Friends, which requires only an investment in time and active participation;
- In the second part of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal, Canada on 17-19 December 2022, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga expressed keen interest to meet with the local network of the UN Global Compact in PH, cognizant of their important role, including in mainstreaming resilience throughout the bureaucracy;
- A Filipino national is currently part of the UN Global Compact Team. Mr. Harold Heredia, a former employee of the Philippine Mission in New York, is currently focal Secretariat support for the UN Global Compact Group of Friends. Should the Philippines decide to join, Mr. Heredia would be able to facilitate the arrangement of meetings between NEDA, DENR and DFA and the UN Global local network, to be held in Manila by the first half of the year;

In view thereof, the Department requests your agency's comments on the Philippines' possible membership and co-chairing of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends. In particular, we seek your guidance in identifying priority areas to focus in forging partnerships through the UN Global Compact Group of Friends, as well as developing a set of guidelines to serve as a blueprint for the Philippine government's engagements with the private sector.

Attached, for your information, is the UN Global Compact Group of Friends' Terms of Reference. You may also access their website at <https://www.unglobalcompact.org> for further details.

The Department would appreciate receiving **your agency's comments by 19 January 2022** through [unio.div1@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:unio.div1@dfa.gov.ph) for timely coordination with the Philippine Mission in New York.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

  
**KIRA CHRISTIANNE D. AZUCENA**  
Assistant Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION LIST:**

**HON. ARSENIO M. BALISACAN**

Secretary

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

**HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA**

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

# UN GLOBAL COMPACT GROUP OF FRIENDS

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### BACKGROUND

The Group of Friends of the UN Global Compact is an informal group of Government representatives that meets on a regular basis to discuss the work of Global Compact and opportunities for Governments. These meetings take place in New York, usually on a quarterly basis.

Members of the Group of Friends are encouraged to engage with the UN Global Compact on a programmatic basis, in alignment with their national policy priorities or interests, and to consider membership in the UN Global Compact Government Group.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

As an informal group, participation in the Group of Friends is open to representatives from all Member States of the United Nations. Government representatives that seek to join a meeting of the Group of Friends are requested to confirm their attendance with the Government Relations team.

The UN Global Compact places no restriction on the level or seniority of representatives at meetings of the Group of Friends.

Unlike the UN Global Compact Government Group, participation in the Group of Friends is not contingent on material support for the Global Compact, and does not provide a formal channel for Government engagement within the UN Global Compact Board.

All Government Group members are invited to attend the meetings of the Group of Friends, and outcomes from the Group of Friends will also be shared with the Government Group. Conversely, select members of the Group of Friends may be extended an invitation to join the Government Group, based on their commitment to supporting the UN Global Compact's goals and activities.

#### 2. MEETINGS OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS

Typically, meetings of the Group of Friends are short gatherings that include an update on the Global Compact's activities and management, as well forward-looking information on plans and strategy. Presentations by the UN Global Compact are followed by an interactive session, during which participants are encouraged to express their views and perspectives on the UN Global Compact.

During the meetings of the Group of Friends, the UN Global Compact may share key documents, as well as an agenda. The UN Global Compact also compiles minutes of the meeting, which are then shared with participants.

In principle, meetings of the Group of Friends will be chaired by interested Governments, who partner with the UN Global Compact in hosting the Group, communicating with other missions, and preparing meeting documents. The UN Global Compact encourages Governments from developed and

developing countries to serve as Co-Chairs as a way to promote an inclusive discussion forum.





<b>Globe Telecom, Inc.</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>GMA Network, Inc.</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines</b>	<b>Business Association Local</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>MERALCO (Manila Electric Company)</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>Prestige Quality Paper Products Corporation</b>	<b>SME</b>	<b>Philippines</b>



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Document Action Tracking System  
Document Routing Slip

*RMH*

**Document No:** DENRCO - OUPPIA-2023-000158 **Print Date:** Monday, January 16, 2023  
**Sender:** KIRA CHRISTIANNE D. AZUCENA  
**Address:** DFA - DIVISION 1 UNIO  
**Subject:** LETTER DTD 01/13/2023 EMAIL DTD 01/16/2023 VERY URGENT: [Due on 19 January 2023]: UNIO-1-0157-2023: PH's possible Membership and Co-Chairmanship of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends  
**Addressee(s):** Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs (DENRCO - OUPPIA)  
**CC Addressee(s):**  
**Date/Time Received:** 01/16/2023 04:51:00 PM

ROUTING AND ACTION INFORMATION				
FROM	DATE/TIME RECEIVED	FOR/TO	DATE/TIME RELEASED	ACCEPTANCE REMARKS/ACTION REQUIRED/TAKEN REMARKS/STATUS
	01/16/2023 05:22:53 PM	DENRCO - OUPPIA		<i>Jeremy pls.</i>

*1/17 For your consideration Sir - Jeremy*



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

**OSEC-2023-000245 : VERY URGENT: [Due on 19 January 2023]: UNIO-1-0157-2023: PH's possible Membership and Co-Chairmanship of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends**

Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 4:51 PM

To: "Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

Sir/Madam:

This is to respectfully transmit, for information and appropriate action, the herein request of UNIO-DFA for DENR's comments on the Philippine's possible membership and co-chairing of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends. DFA hopes to receive our comments by 19 January 2023.

We will appreciate informing this office of the action taken on the matter, citing EDATS No. OSEC-2023-000245.

Thank you.

**Office of the Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources**



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Division 1 UNIO** <unio.div1@dfa.gov.ph>

Date: Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 9:36 AM

Subject: **VERY URGENT: [Due on 19 January 2023]: UNIO-1-0157-2023: PH's possible Membership and Co-Chairmanship of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends**

To: NEDA Office of the Secretary <osec@neda.gov.ph>, NEDA Sustainable Development Goals <sdg@neda.gov.ph>,

DENR Office of the Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>, OUEIEA Secretariat <oueiea.denr@gmail.com>

Cc: Rosemarie Edillon <RGEdillon@neda.gov.ph>, Office UNIO <unio@dfa.gov.ph>

Dear NEDA and DENR Colleagues,

Please find attached the letter UNIO-1-0157-2023 on the above subject.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email and its attachments.

Please also noted the deadline of submission of comments is on 19 January 2023.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

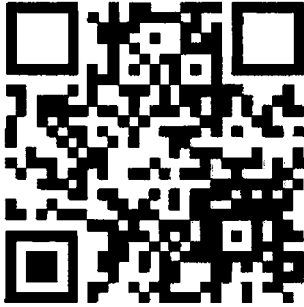
Winnie

**Economic Security and Sustainable Development Division  
(Division 1)**

Office of United Nations and International Organizations

Department of Foreign Affairs

Tel: 834-4892 / 834-3897/ 834-3767



**UNIO**  
OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
[unio@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:unio@dfa.gov.ph)

Your **FEEDBACK** matters.

**2 attachments**

 **UNIO-1-0157-2023\_L\_NEDA\_DENR\_UN Global Compact Group of Friends.pdf**  
418K

 **UN Global Compact Group of Friends Terms of Reference.pdf**  
172K



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35  
929-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669  
Website: <https://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: [web@denr.gov.ph](mailto:web@denr.gov.ph)

**VERY URGENT  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** All Bureau Directors  
  
The Directors  
Policy and Planning Service  
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

**FROM :** The Undersecretary  
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**SUBJECT :** PHILIPPINES' POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP AND CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT GROUP OF FRIENDS

**DATE :** JAN 17 2023

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May we refer the herein letter dated 3 January 2023 signed by Assistant Secretary Kira Christianne D. Azucena of the Office of United Nations and International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, informing the invitation of the Philippines to join and co-chair the UN Global Compact Group of Friends representing the Global South/ developing world.

In view hereof, may we request your comments on the Philippines' possible membership and co-chairing of the UN Global Compact Group of Friends. Kindly also provide inputs in identifying priority areas to focus in forging partnerships through the UN Global Compact Group of Friends, as well as developing a set of guidelines to serve as a blueprint for the PH government's engagements with the private sector, to be submitted to this Office **as soon as possible**. Attached, for your information, is the UN Global Compact Group of Friends' Terms of Reference. You may also access their website at <https://www.unglobalcompact.org> for further details.

For your information and immediate appropriate action.

  
ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES