



# The Global Compact Cities Programme

## Terms of Engagement

### Signatory Cities

#### Preamble

The Global Compact Cities Programme (the “Cities Programme”) promotes the adoption and practical application of the ten principles of the Global Compact in cities around the world. It facilitates collaboration between government, business and civil society to enhance sustainability, resilience, diversity and adaptation within cities, in the face of complex urban challenges.

The Cities Programme is managed by an International Secretariat, located in the Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. The Cities Programme and the International Secretariat are auspiced by the UN Global Compact Office in New York City, USA.

The Cities Programme offers cities a broad range of benefits, including access to:

- A specific city-focused forum to publicly register cities’ commitment to the principles of the Global Compact and to recognise the initiatives undertaken within cities in support of the Global Compact;
- City and urban networks both locally and internationally, to promote city initiatives and projects, share learnings and promote collaboration;
- Tools to assist in reporting on progress in implementing the Global Compact Principles;
- A platform to extend a city’s commitment to the Global Compact into a practical demonstration project, supported by an International Secretariat;
- A comprehensive framework to facilitate engagement and collaboration across all levels of government, with business and civil society, in addressing complex or seemingly intractable urban challenges;
- A detailed methodology to assist in development, monitoring and assessment of collaborative projects that seek to address such challenges; and
- Researchers who can offer advice on particular issues and to assist in project implementation and evaluation.

#### Levels of Engagement

There are three levels of engagement in the Cities Programme, and a city can choose to enter the Programme at any level.. The levels of engagement reflect a progression in terms of commitment by a city, as outlined below.

1. Signatory City

A Signatory City signs onto the principles of the Global Compact (see Appendix 1) and endeavours to enact and promote those principles in its policies, practices and activities. It also agrees to reach out to business and civil society to extend the Global Compact principles.

2. Reporting City

A Reporting City also signs onto the principles of the Global Compact and endeavours to enact and promote those principles in its policies, practices and activities. In addition, the city signs onto a reporting process that monitors progress in the city in relation to the ten Global Compact principles and provides an annual communication on progress.

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### 3. Innovating City

An Innovating City, beyond the commitments of Levels 1 and 2, undertakes a major demonstration project, which seeks to address a complex or seemingly intractable issue within the city. The management of the project is undertaken using Cities Programme tools that facilitate collaborative partnerships and the establishment of rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes.

## Signatory City

Signatory Cities will be expected to acknowledge and demonstrate the following attributes:

### 1. Commitment

The city commits itself to putting into practice the ten principles of the Global Compact, and to publicly promoting those principles, both within and beyond the city. The city also commits to promoting those principles to the private sector and to all aspects of civil society within its sphere of communication and influence.

### 2. Leadership

The city recognizes its capacity to lead by example in facilitating the widespread adoption of the Global Compact principles. The city recognizes that both formal authority structures and informal governance processes are central to engaging all of its citizens and institutions in implementing lasting, positive change for the benefit of the whole community.

## Joining the Cities Programme

An expression of interest may be made by a city at any time to join the Cities Programme, at any level of engagement, by contacting the International Secretariat. Engagement as a Signatory City is offered by written invitation from the International Secretariat.

No maximum or minimum number of participating Cities will be prescribed. All Signatory Cities are listed on the Cities Programme website: [www.citiesprogramme.org](http://www.citiesprogramme.org).

There is no financial cost associated with becoming a Signatory City in the Cities Programme.

The term of engagement as a Signatory City is three years, with an annual confirmation of commitment. At the expiration of the term (or before if the city so decides), a Signatory City will consider re-engagement in the Cities Programme as a Signatory City, or progressing to the level of Reporting City or Innovating City.

## Protocol and Procedure

A Signatory City is represented by a nominated individual who is responsible for actively promoting the city's participation in the Cities Programme and for communicating with the International Secretariat.

It is important that an Innovating City makes contact with any Global Compact Local Network operating within its country or region, to confirm its commitment to the principles of the Global Compact. Global Compact Local Networks aim to assist participating organisations to observe their obligations and can provide significant assistance to Innovating Cities in reaching out to business and civil society in undertaking their projects.

A Signatory City must at all times observe these Terms of Engagement.

A Signatory City must not use or promote itself in any way by use of the United Nations logo or the UN Global Compact logo (or any associated logos) in any of its communications without written permission obtained through the Global Compact website process: see [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org).

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# Appendix 1

## The Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the Cities Programme

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. In the Cities Programme we have extended these principles to cover the involved government agencies, civil society organizations and businesses:

### *Human Rights*

- Principle 1: Support and respect for the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights;
- Principle 2: Active rejection of human rights abuses.

### *Labour Standards*

- Principle 3: Upholding of the freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: Support for the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: Upholding of the effective abolition of child labour;
- Principle 6: Support for the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### *Environment*

- Principle 7: Support for a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: Undertaking to promote greater environmental responsibility;
- Principle 9: Encouragement of the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

### *Anti-Corruption*

- Principle 10: Work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.
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# The Global Compact Cities Programme

## Terms of Engagement

### Reporting Cities

#### Preamble

The Global Compact Cities Programme (the “Cities Programme”) promotes the adoption and practical application of the ten principles of the Global Compact in cities around the world. It facilitates collaboration between government, business and civil society to enhance sustainability, resilience, diversity and adaptation within cities, in the face of complex urban challenges.

The Cities Programme is managed by an International Secretariat, located in the Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. The Cities Programme and the International Secretariat are auspiced by the UN Global Compact Office in New York City, USA.

The Cities Programme offers cities a broad range of benefits, including access to:

- A specific city-focused forum to publicly register cities’ commitment to the principles of the Global Compact and to recognise the initiatives undertaken within cities in support of the Global Compact;
- City and urban networks both locally and internationally, to promote city initiatives and projects, share learnings and promote collaboration;
- Tools to assist in reporting on progress in implementing the Global Compact Principles;
- A comprehensive framework to assist cities to engage and work collaboratively across all levels of government, with business and civil society, on complex or seemingly intractable issues;
- A detailed methodology to assist in development, monitoring and assessment of projects aiming to address such challenges through innovative, collaborative approaches; and
- Researchers who can offer advice on particular issues and to assist in project implementation and evaluation.

#### Levels of Engagement

There are three levels of engagement in the Cities Programme, and a city can choose to enter the Programme at any level. The levels of engagement reflect a progression in terms of commitment by a city, as outlined below.

##### 1. Signatory City

A Signatory City signs onto the principles of the Global Compact (see Appendix 1) and endeavours to enact and promote those principles in its policies, practices and activities. It also agrees to reach out to business and civil society to extend the Global Compact principles.

##### 2. Reporting City

A Reporting City also signs onto the principles of the Global Compact and endeavours to enact and promote those principles in its policies, practices and activities. In addition, the city signs onto a reporting process that monitors progress in the city in relation to the ten Global Compact principles and provides an annual communication on progress.

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### 3. Innovating City

An Innovating City, beyond the commitments of Levels 1 and 2, undertakes a major demonstration project, which seeks to address a complex or seemingly intractable issue within the city. The management of the project is undertaken using Cities Programme tools that facilitate collaborative partnerships and the establishment of rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes.

### Reporting Cities

Reporting Cities will be expected to acknowledge and demonstrate the following attributes:

#### 1. Commitment

The city commits itself to putting into practice the ten principles of the Global Compact, and to publicly promoting those principles, both within and beyond the city. The city also commits to promoting those principles to the private sector and to all aspects of civil society within its sphere of communication and influence.

#### 2. Leadership

The city recognizes its capacity to lead by example in facilitating the widespread adoption of the Global Compact principles. The city recognizes that both formal authority structures and informal governance processes are central to engaging all of its citizens and institutions in implementing lasting, positive change for the benefit of the whole community.

#### 3. Communication

The city understands that transparent, public communication on its activities is critical to demonstrating its commitment to the Global Compact principles. It recognises the benefit of communicating both its successful and less than successful approaches, to enhance local and global learning about effective urban governance. The city is dedicated to mutual dialogue with cities facing similar urban governance challenges, to improve the life of urban citizens throughout the world.

### Joining the Cities Programme

An expression of interest may be made by a city at any time to join the Cities Programme, at any level of engagement, by contacting the International Secretariat. Engagement as a Reporting City is offered by written invitation from the International Secretariat.

There is no financial cost associated with becoming a Reporting City in the Cities Programme. No maximum or minimum number of participating Cities will be prescribed.

All Reporting Cities are listed on the Cities Programme website: [www.citiesprogramme.org](http://www.citiesprogramme.org).

Reporting Cities receive support and resources from the International Secretariat in compiling their communications on progress (see below).

### Protocol and Procedure

A Reporting City is represented by a nominated individual who is responsible for promoting the city's membership, communicating with the International Secretariat and ensuring the city's compliance with reporting requirements.

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A Reporting City is required to submit an annual communication on progress, which summarizes the activities that the city has been undertaking to enact and promote the ten Global Compact principles in its policies, practices and activities. Communications on progress will be made publicly available on the Cities Programme website: [www.citiesprogramme.org](http://www.citiesprogramme.org) and which will be publicised in other Cities Programme publications.

A communication on progress takes the form of a written report addressing the four domains of the Global Compact principles:

- *Human Rights*
- *Labour Standards*
- *Environmental Sustainability*
- *Anti-Corruption*

To provide a broad sustainability perspective on its activities, a Reporting City should also consider each of the four Global Compact domains from economic, ecological, political and cultural dimensions. This analysis will also form part of its communication on progress.

It is important that a Reporting City makes contact with any Global Compact Local Network operating within its country or region, to confirm its commitment to the principles of the Global Compact. Global Compact Local Networks aim to assist Global Compact member organisations to observe their obligations and can provide significant assistance to Reporting Cities in reaching out to business and civil society in promoting the ten principles.

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# Appendix 1

## **The Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the Cities Programme**

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. In the Cities Programme we have extended these principles to cover the involved government agencies, civil society organizations and businesses:

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### *Anti-Corruption*

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# The Global Compact Cities Programme

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### Innovating Cities

#### Overview

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- A platform to extend a city’s commitment to the Global Compact into a practical demonstration project, supported by an International Secretariat;
- A comprehensive framework to facilitate engagement and collaboration across all levels of government, with business and civil society, in addressing complex or seemingly intractable urban challenges;
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##### 3. Innovating City

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## **Innovating City**

Innovating Cities will be expected to acknowledge and demonstrate the following attributes:

1. **Commitment**  
The city commits itself to putting into practice the ten principles of the Global Compact, and to publicly promoting those principles, both within and beyond the city. The city also commits to promoting those principles to the private sector and to all aspects of civil society within its sphere of communication and influence.
2. **Leadership**  
The city recognizes its capacity to lead by example in facilitating the widespread adoption of the Global Compact principles. The city recognizes that both formal authority structures and informal governance processes are central to engaging all of its citizens and institutions in implementing lasting, positive change for the benefit of the whole community.
3. **Communication**  
The city understands that transparent, public communication on its activities is critical to demonstrating its commitment to the Global Compact principles. It recognises the benefit of communicating both its successful and less than successful approaches, to enhance local and global learning about effective urban governance. The city is dedicated to mutual dialogue with cities facing similar urban governance challenges, to improve the life of urban citizens throughout the world.
4. **Sustainability**  
The city has a capacity to follow through on a core project in a sustained way (for at least three years) to contribute to the long-term social or environmental wellbeing of the city.
5. **Resilience**  
The city has a capacity to respond adequately over time to the problems associated with rapid political, economic, cultural or ecological change and to learn from problematic prior responses or new issues as they arise.
6. **Diversity**  
The city has an awareness and respect for the need to work effectively across different sectors, economic classes and political-cultural backgrounds, including differences of religion, ethnicity, age, gender, and ideology.
7. **Adaptation.**  
The city has an openness and flexibility to work across sectors in different environments to gain shared outcomes in responding to complex or seemingly intractable urban issues.

## **Joining the Cities Programme**

An expression of interest may be made by a city at any time to join the Cities Programme, at any level of engagement, by contacting the International Secretariat. Engagement as an Innovating City is offered by written invitation from the International Secretariat.

The city is invited to set up a Local Secretariat to manage the process of identifying an appropriate issue, designing a project, involving the relevant stakeholders and establishing reporting processes.

No maximum or minimum number of participating Cities will be prescribed. All Innovating Cities are listed on the Cities Programme website: [www.citiesprogramme.org](http://www.citiesprogramme.org).

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Innovating Cities pay an engagement fee, which provides access to a range of targeted assistance from the International Secretariat, including self-assessment tools, project design methodologies and a city-based indicator framework to assist cities in addressing their particular complex urban challenges.

The term of engagement as an Innovating City is three years, with an annual confirmation of commitment. At the expiration of the term (or before if the city so decides), an Innovating City will consider re-engagement in the Cities Programme, by applying the learnings from the city's initial engagement either through extending the scope of the current project or by focussing on another urban challenge.

### **Protocol and Procedure**

An Innovating City is required to nominate an In-Country Convenor, who is responsible for communication with the International Secretariat and reporting on project progress. The In-Country Convenor co-ordinates the work of the Local Secretariat and is responsible for its schedule of meetings. A Local Secretariat must be established, comprising a cross-sectoral team of leaders, with overarching responsibility for project development and implementation. A Working Group is normally established, which carries out day-to-day delivery of activities and tasks.

Reports of Innovating Cities are highlighted in a dedicated section of the Cities Programme website ([www.citiesprogramme.org](http://www.citiesprogramme.org)) and featured in the Programme's communications.

An Innovating City is required to complete a rigorous self assessment process based on the Cities Programme methodology, which encourages the Local Secretariat to consider its previous approaches to the chosen challenge from a sustainability perspective, and in particular, its economic, ecological, political and cultural dimensions. This process provides a critical platform for identifying gaps in previous approaches to the challenge, and facilitates the design of project objectives, milestones and deliverables that incorporate all relevant considerations. It also facilitates the engagement of the most appropriate stakeholders in addressing the challenge, from across government, business and civil society sectors.

Based on the comprehensive, city-specific suite of indicators developed by the Cities Programme, a city selects the most relevant indicators to effectively monitor and report on progress in achieving project objectives and outcomes.

An Innovating City is required to submit an annual communication on progress, which reports on the project activities following a prescribed format. This communication also contains a report on the application of the Global Compact principles in relation to the project, and more broadly in the city's policies, practices and activities.

As noted above, the International Secretariat works closely with Innovating Cities throughout the entire process of establishing the Local Secretariat and Working Groups, self assessment, stakeholder engagement, indicator selection, monitoring and reporting.

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