

## **Project - BPW Federations to become Non-Government Participants to the United Nations Global Compact**

### **Introduction**

Sustainability starts with an organisation's value system and a principled approach to achieving the aims and objectives.

The UN Global Compact's Ten Principles and Sustainability Development Goals are derived from: the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and cover the four areas of **human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption**.

The aims and objectives of United Nations Global Compact are aligned to our BPW aims as well as our mission statements. The core business of BPW is gender equity and equal pay which is Global Compact principle 6 and the Sustainability Goal 5 (SDG). Every federation should achieve these principles. Non- Government Organisations (NGO) can apply to be a participant to the UNGC on line at no charge.

This would bring visibility for all our BPW Federations and projects on the UNGC website. It would also give us the opportunity to connect with other UNGC members and lobby them for gender equity topics.

### **Approval of Initiative at International Level**

The **"Make BPW More Visible at UN Level"** Initiative commenced in 2011 by BPW Australia.

In April 2016 at the BPW Asia Pacific Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, Marilyn Forsythe, BPW Australia Past President, met with International President, Yasmin Darwich, to seek support to the concept and to promote it to other BPW Federations. After discussion, approval was given for the concept but it could not be called a project as it had not been submitted to the BPWI Projects Committee. Approval was given by Yasmin Darwich for the concept and the word project was replaced by the term **Initiative**

Arzu Ozyol, BPW International Vice President United National gave her support for the **Initiative** at the same Conference.

Since 2011 three Federations have been accepted by the Global Compact as Participants (BPW Australia, BPW Turkey and BPW Korea). BPW New Zealand is about to apply.

Once a Federation receives permission to be a Participant then they can enter projects on the UNGC web site, have the approved UNGC Logo on their web page and receive monthly news information from the UNGC.

The project team consists of: Marilyn Forsythe (Project leader), Irene Ross (both BPW Australia) and Sabine Schmelzer, BPW Switzerland.

### **Membership Benefits**

There is proven evidence from BPW Australia that when a Federation becomes a UNGC Participant they can broaden their focus further to members that they are truly members of an organisation that has Status with the United Nations. To a club member this cannot be significant, but with direct association to the United Nations Global Compact it is a clear connection. Further being a Participant can attract new members who want to have a focus on world issues.

### **Responsibility for the Ensuring that the Participant information is maintained.**

Once a Federation has achieved to be a Participant they should appoint a member as an ex-officio to the Executive as a coordinator for UNGC.

The coordinator should be an experienced BPW member who keeps a register of the date that the Federation should resubmit the Communication on Engagement (COE) every two years. The coordinator should have the password for the UNGC website and should also take care of entering the relevant projects of the Federation on the UNGC website.

This coordinator is essential as it has been the experience that when there is a change of President the incoming President is not aware of the dates for the submission of the COE. The position tenure would be over several terms of office (like the UN representatives). BPW Australia created the ex-officio position of Global Compact Coordinator and this works very efficiently. BPW Australia is now in the third term of commitment.

### **Action Plan**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Comment</b>
The initiative was presented the first time to BPW members in September 2016 at the Regional Conference in Zurich in a workshop about UN activities.	The presentation was given by Sabine Schmelzer in a workshop held by Arzu Ozyol and International President, Yasmin Darwich was present.
The "Make BPW More Visible at UN Level" Power Point is distributed to Regional Coordinators by the Project Leader.	The Power Point has been supplied to all Regional Co-ordinators in early 2017
The Regional Coordinator distributes to Federation Presidents with a supporting letter and the PowerPoint Package.	BPW Asia Pacific and BPW Africa have complied
The Regional Coordinator supplies list of Federations with contact names and email addresses to the Project Leader within 30 days.	Only three Regional Co-ordinators (BPW Asia Pacific, BPW Africa) have met this criteria
Post 30 days the Project Leader contacts each of the BPW Federations that have been sent the Package by their Regional Coordinator.	BPW Asia Pacific and BPW Africa have been contacted
The Federation President prepares a Letter of Commitment signed by the President to the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing commitment to the UN Global Compact and its ten principles; and participation in the activities of the initiative where feasible.	Complied –BPW Australia, BPW Turkey and BPW Korea

The Federation notifies the Project Leader once they have been successful and accepted as a participant.	Complied –BPW Australia, BPW Turkey and BPW Korea
The Project Leader maintains a register of the Federation and the date they are required to submit a new letter of Commitment of Engagement (COE).  Signatory is valid for a two year period. Towards the end of the two year period NGO participants must submit of a Communication on Engagement (COE) every two years. If the COE is not presented the organisation is removed from the UN web site.	Complied –BPW Australia, BPW Turkey and BPW Korea
Three months prior to the next expiry date the Project Leader will contact the Federation President with a reminder to submit a new COE.	Complied
<b>Project Leader will submit Annual Reports</b> of the Project and the updated <b>Action Plan</b> (the year after International Congress) will be submitted by the due date.	

Once a federation is accepted as a participants the federation is able to join the local global network. Not every country has one. You find the local Global Compact Network on: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/engage-locally>

For this second stage the following steps are optional:

### Stage 2

- Apply to join Local Global Compact Networks are incorporated independent Boards that are self-funded and report to the United Nations annually
- Membership of the Global Compact Network gives organisations that are participant the opportunity to be actively engaged in the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative.
- Ability to leverage the UN's global reach and convening power with government, business, civil society and other stakeholders.
- Participants are able to attend workshops free of charge. This is an opportunity to meet major corporate leaders and network.
- Invitation to webinars

Costs per annum are in Australia 500 \$.

Marilyn Forsythe