



**United Nations** Global Compact



Lions Clubs International

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14 March 2008

Dear colleagues,

In our respective capacities as Head of Global Compact Partnerships of the UN Global Compact Office (GCO) and as the International President of the Lions Clubs International (LCI), it is with pleasure that we announce a new collaborative effort between our organizations in which both parties have decided to explore potential synergies by encouraging closer cooperation between local Lions clubs and Global Compact Local Networks at the national level.

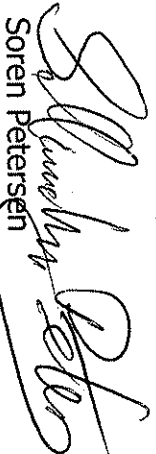
#### Closer Local Partnership

The LCI and the UN Global Compact have decided to jointly promote their work through a series of activities:

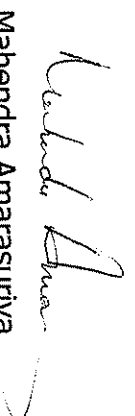
1. Both LCI and the UN Global Compact will promote cooperation in developing countries between local Lions clubs and Global Compact Local Networks.
2. LCI will further educate its clubs and members on the critical importance of the Millennium Development Goals, and promote cooperation between Lions clubs in developed and developing countries in pursuit of the MDGs among other ways through the established partnership mechanisms LCI has in place, such as its International Understanding and Cooperation Program, the International Assistance Grant Program, and through Lions partnership initiatives already established between continents and regional areas as well as look for potential alignment with Global Compact Local Networks.
3. LCI will also identify, implement and fund in its 2008-09 fiscal year at least three pilot projects in Latin America, Africa, and South/Southeast Asia -- with one project implemented in each of these areas -- to demonstrate effective cooperation between local Lions clubs and Global Compact Local Networks in pursuit of the MDGs.
4. The UN Global Compact will assist LCI in facilitating the involvement of Global Compact Local Networks in developing and implementing the three pilot projects.
5. The UN Global Compact will provide advice and guidance to assist LCI in educating its members on partnering to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and related challenges.

As a continuation of this global effort, the LCI and UN Global Compact would like to encourage Lions clubs districts at the national level and Local Networks respectively to support the efforts on the ground to promote the Global Compact. As the UN Global Compact and LCI have recognized, practical and effective international principles and standards will play a major part in harnessing the power of the business and other sectors in responding to the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

Yours sincerely,



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& Partnerships  
UN Global Compact Office



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Lions Clubs

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## Background

The Global Compact was launched in 2000 and has become the world's largest and most widely embraced corporate citizenship initiative. Today, almost 4000 companies from more than 100 countries, as well as many international labour and civil society organizations, are engaged in the Global Compact, working to advance ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption and to engage in actions in support of broader UN goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Global Compact has unmatched strength in the developing world, home to more than half its participating organizations and a majority of the more than 80 Local Networks it has engendered.

Lions Clubs International (LCI) is a worldwide voluntary service organization comprising 1.3 million members, with a presence in more than 200 countries, whose mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding among all peoples of the world. LCI is a consultative member in good standing with the ECOSOC group of the United Nations, and has a long history of positive and mutually cooperative formal relations with the United Nations since its establishment. In July 2007, in a study carried out by the Financial Times with the Dalberg Global Development Advisors, LCI was recognized as one of the best among 34 leading non-governmental organizations worldwide for organizations to partner with.

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