



Safripol Sustainability Conference 2024

Collaborating for the achievement of
the SDGs

Rethabile Mbokodi

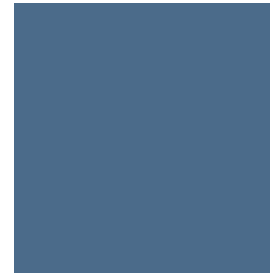
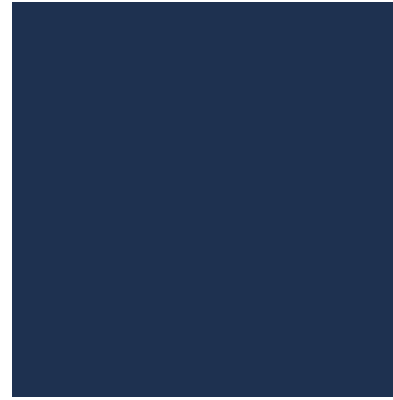
Programme Manager, GCNSA





UN GLOBAL COMPACT **ACCELERATING AND SCALING** **GLOBAL IMPACT**

ABOUT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

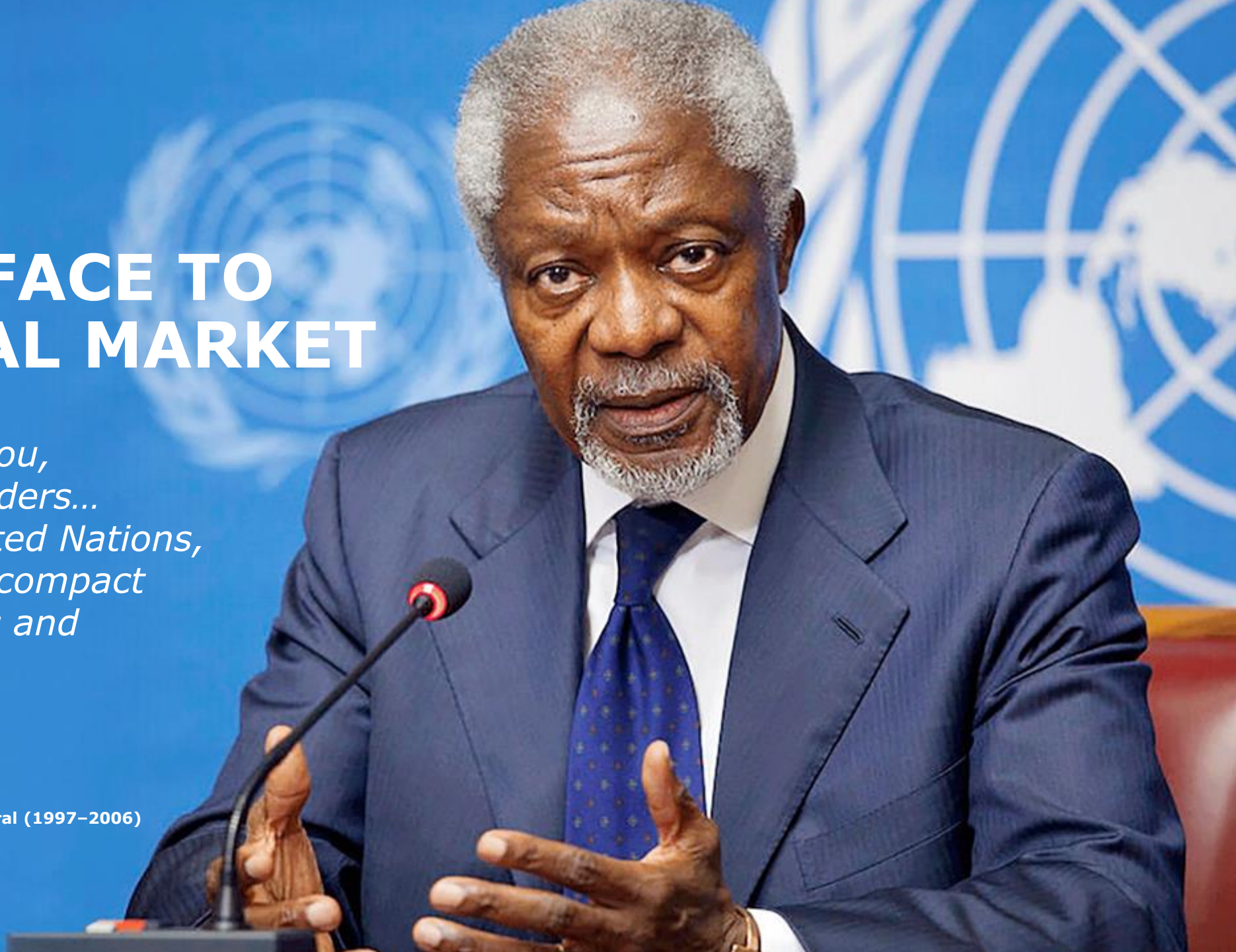


THE WORLD IN 1999

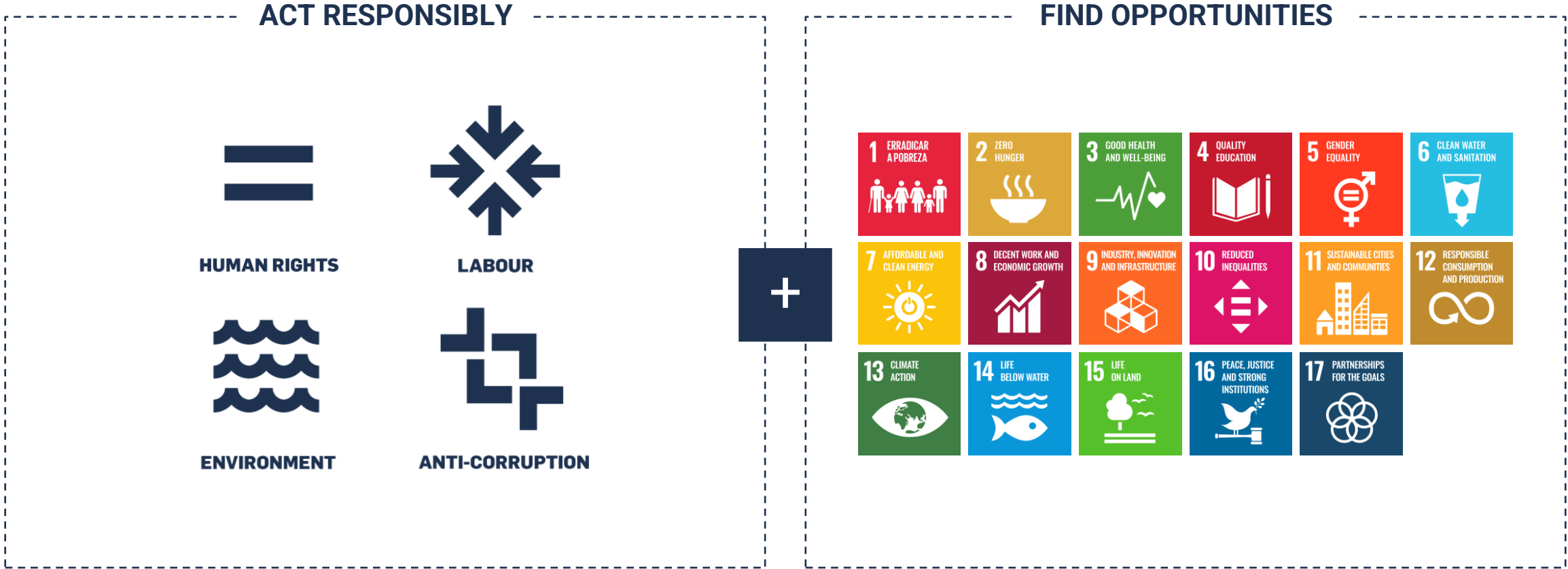
A HUMAN FACE TO THE GLOBAL MARKET

“*I propose that you,
the business leaders...
and we, the United Nations,
initiate a global compact
of shared values and
principles*”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General (1997–2006)



Implementing a Principles-based Approach to the SDGs Promotes Progress Toward a Sustainable and Inclusive Global Economy



UN GLOBAL COMPACT: OVERVIEW

20,000+

businesses committed to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

56%

of participating businesses are SMEs

160+

countries with UN Global Compact participants

70+

Country networks and growing



HUMAN RIGHTS



LABOUR



ENVIRONMENT



ANTI-CORRUPTION

**BUSINESSES ARE
TAKING ACTION**



BUSINESS LEADERS ARE ALIGNED WITH THE SDGs

96%

believe private sector plays a crucial role in achieving SDGs

91%

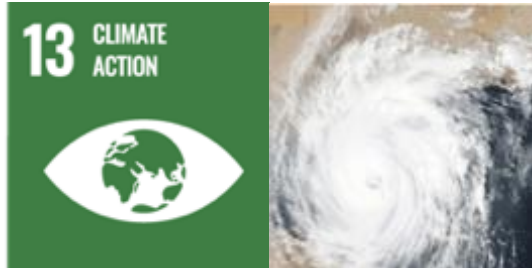
Made a public commitment to at least one SDG

78%

Have changed a product or service to align to SDGs



YET 85% OF SDG INDICATORS ARE OFF TRACK



Only **18%** of **Global 2000** companies are on-track to reach net-zero operations by 2050



It will take **257 years** to close the global gender pay gap



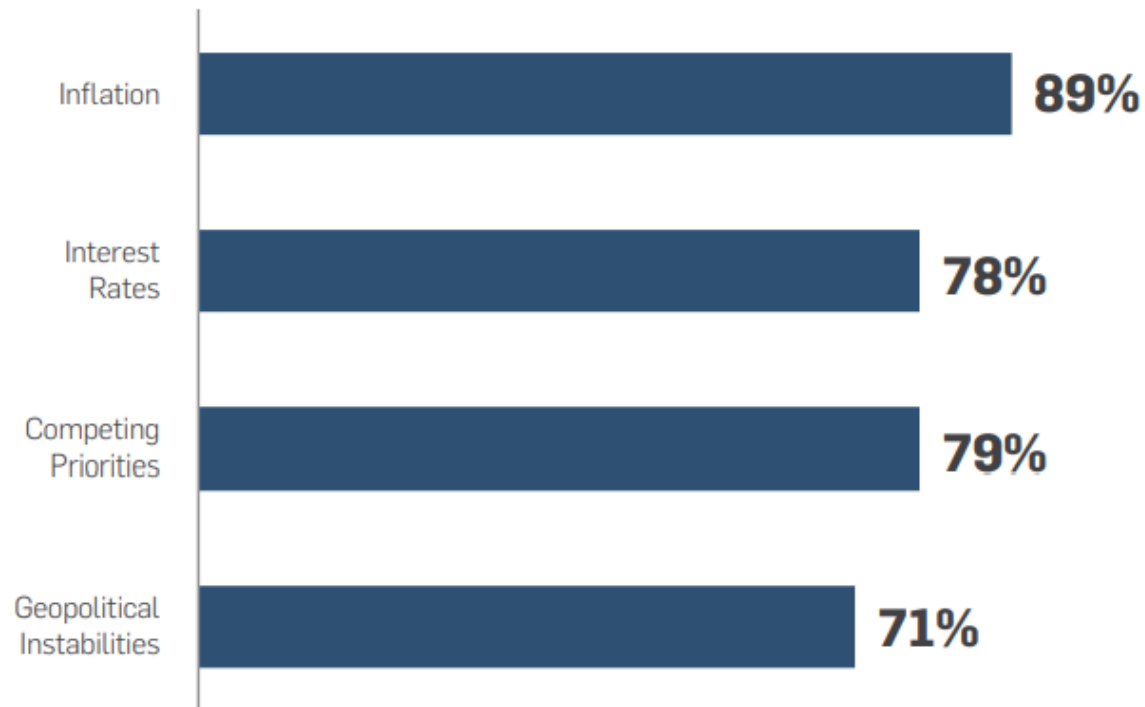
1 in 3 workers earn less than they need to afford a decent standard of living



2/3rds of all water consumption happens in corporate supply chains

THE CURRENT BUSINESS LANDSCAPE PRESENTS BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY

CYCLICAL BARRIERS



STRUCTURAL BARRIERS





SCALING GLOBAL COLLECTIVE IMPACT



To do it, we need to do it together. Collaboration. North, South, East, West. Black, Brown, White. Strengthen the diversity of the human family is what we need right now. It might sound like it's impossible, but that's what we work towards. Making the impossible, possible."

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General,
Amina J. Mohammed



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Network South Africa

VNR 2024



SOUTH AFRICA'S SDGs PROGRESS

Keynote Address by Minister Maropene Ramokgopa, Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Launch of the Private Sector Voluntary National Review Report

- “Significant strides have marked South Africa’s journey toward achieving the SDGs, yet challenges remain. South Africa has made significant strides in poverty reduction, education, and health”.
- “Our country is navigating complex socio-economic issues, including unemployment, inequality, and the impacts of climate change”

➤ **SA VNR Report 2024 will be sent to Cabinet for review**



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COLLABORATING ACROSS SECTORS

The private sector view was then integrated with perspectives from the public sector and civil society to deliver the South African Report 2024.



The GCNSA facilitated the Private Sector Voluntary National Review

Participation on the National Writing team to integrate findings with across sectors.

Playback and review of the South African VNR 2024 Report with stakeholders.

The Presidency will report back to the UN High Level Political Forum

JULY 2025



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EXTENSIVE PARTICIPATION

The level of engagement was a substantial increase beyond the first VNR in 2019, with more holistic representation across industries and higher engagement from SMEs.

16

Stakeholder Engagement
Virtual Round Tables

132

Companies participated
in the process

3,410

Insights captured and
analysed

300+

Individual contributors
participated

37

Company Case
Studies

6

In Collaboration with
Strategic Partners



PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT STEPS

Participating companies engaged with a 5-step process for gathering insights:



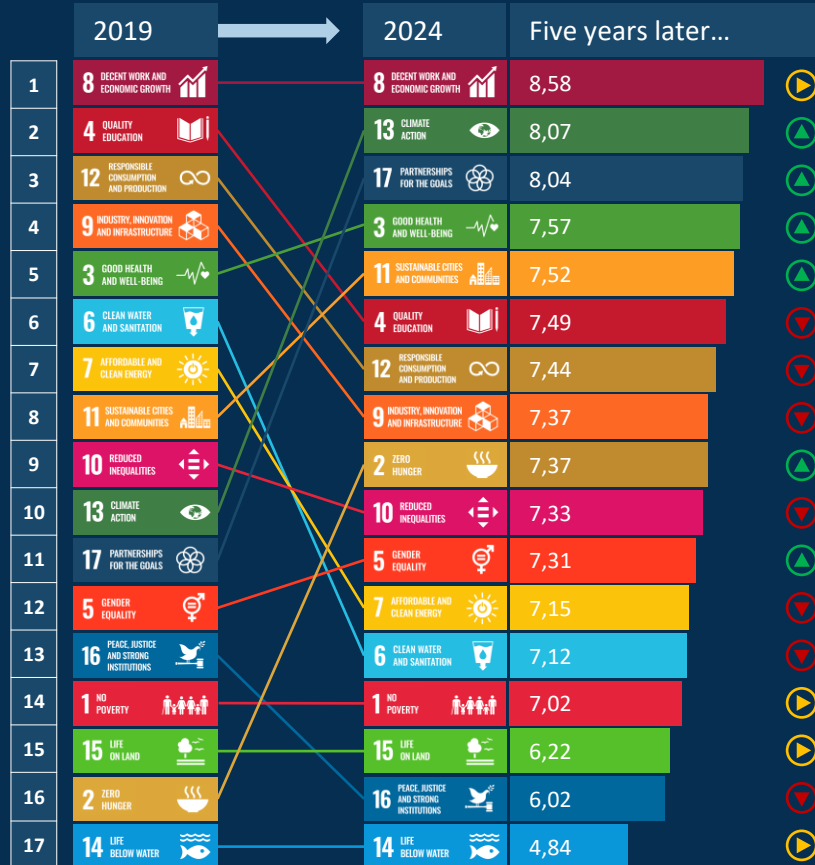
5 Step Participation Process

- 1. Engagement with Business Leadership**
- 2. Contribution of SDG priorities and progress**
- 3. Input of company success stories, risks and opportunities**
- 4. Input of company Key Performance Measures**
- 5. Participation in industry and priority topic round tables**



SHIFTING SDG PRIORITIES

Climate Action, Partnership for the Goals, and Zero Hunger saw the sharpest rises. Innovation, Education, and Responsible Consumption and Production fell steeply from the top 5.



The Likely Rationale

1. Rise in awareness and policy relating to Climate Action
2. Economic hard times and volatile trading environments
3. Negative impact of the pandemic on staff and operations
4. Negative financial impact due to loadshedding
5. Impact on communities, including inflation, poverty and hunger



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INDUSTRY SDG PRIORITIES

Top SDG priorities vary significantly across industries, based on where they can maximise impact:

COMPANY ACTION PRIORITIES BY INDUSTRY





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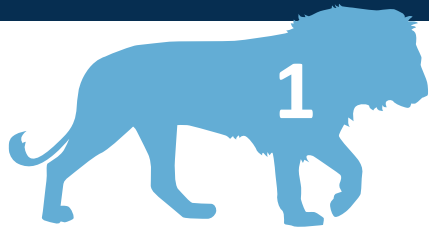
POLICY ENABLEMENT





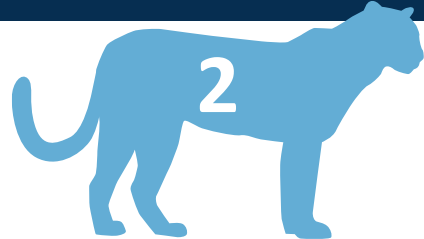
THE BIG FIVE OF COMPANY POLICY ASKS

**Companies were deeply concerned that policy is not innovating quickly enough...
With policy compliance remaining too difficult, too resource consuming, and too punitive.**



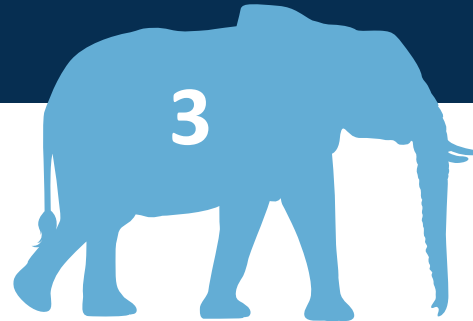
MAKE IT SIMPLER TO ADOPT

- streamline policy & process
- eliminate bureaucratic hurdles
- easy entry level certifications
- shorter, better guidance
- simple, accessible training



'ONE STOP SHOP': ONLINE PORTAL

- digital portals
- user-friendly navigation
- automate for speed
- automate to end 'back handers'
- reduce overlaps



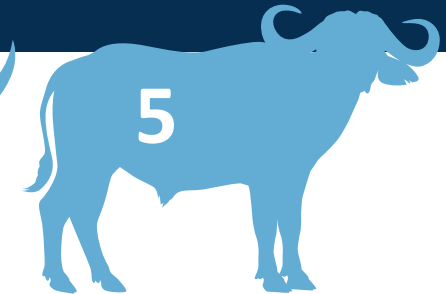
MAKE IT CONSISTENT

- harmonise local and provincial
- harmonise national and regional
- consistency across jurisdictions
- integrate reporting frameworks
- Consistent calculations & KPIs



CHECK IT'S WORKING

- transparent policy review
- feedback on efficacy
- spotlight effective policies
- analytics for policy performance
- capitalise on lessons learned



MORE FOCUS ON INCENTIVES

- More tax rebate incentives
- More financing incentives
- Better scaling of success stories
- better policy to stimulate growth
- more focus on value creation
- incentives for collaboration



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EMERGING OPPORTUNITY





INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES (2/2)

Companies emphasised that multi-level stakeholder co-ordination is needed to maximise the material sustainability opportunities that could enable the South African private sector.

Manufacturing, Consumer Goods, Pharma and Health:



#	Opportunities
1	Deliver Tele-health and Remote Monitoring Services:
2	Optimise Manufacturing Supply Chains:
3	Deliver e-Commerce Optimisation Services:
4	Provide Green Manufacturing Consulting:
5	Mobilise Circular Economy Offerings:
6	Produce Advanced Materials for Sustainable Products
7	Provide Green Manufacturing Solutions:
8	Provide AI-Enhanced Drug Development:
9	Invest in Precision Medicine Services:

Mining, Natural Gas and Resources:



#	Opportunities
1	Attract Strategic Partners into Host Community Opportunities
2	Enable Biodiversity and Land Conservation Initiatives
3	Use Technology to Attain Water Management Efficiencies
4	Expand Mineral and Metal Circular Economy Opportunities
5	Lead on Independent Green Energy Production
6	Invest in Sustainable Prospecting and Mine Technology and Incentives
7	Leverage Automation, Digitalisation to Modernised Mining
8	Invest in Carbon Capture Technologies
9	Develop Green Petrochemicals and Critical Mineral Products

Telecommunication, ICT, Education and Media:



#	Opportunities
1	Enable Digital Solutions that Deliver Sustainability Outcomes
2	Deploying Universal Access to the Internet
3	Deliver Digitally Advanced Learning Experiences
4	Engage in Youth Recruitment and Workforce Readiness
5	Promote Quality Media and Access to Information and Applications
6	Specialise in AI, Analytics and Automation Implementation
7	Partner to Supply Local ICT Equipment Production and Recycling
8	Enable Data Sovereignty and Cyber Protection
9	Mobilise Immersive Content Creation Capabilities

What Private Sector needs to do?

- **We need**

- Collective and ambitious action
- Strengthened partnerships, private sector, civil society, government, academia
- Collaboration in and across sectors
- Innovations as a key enabler for sustainability
- Increased accountability, monitoring, reflection, learning, leading and continuous improvement



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FORWARD FASTER





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FORWARD FASTER

The VNR will be presented in July 2025 at the UN High Level Political Forum. Look out for the Forward Faster initiative, and let's see what can be done to pick up the pace.



THE FIVE FORWARD FASTER DRIVERS

Finance & Investment

Shifting corporate capital towards the SDGs is critical to closing existing financing gaps.



Living Wage

Reduce inequalities and build more resilient supply chains by ensuring a living wage across your workforce.



Gender Equality

Increase profitability and performance by ensuring inclusive workplaces and parity in your workplace.



Climate Action

Protect your business from long term volatility by working towards net zero and a just transition.



Water Resilience

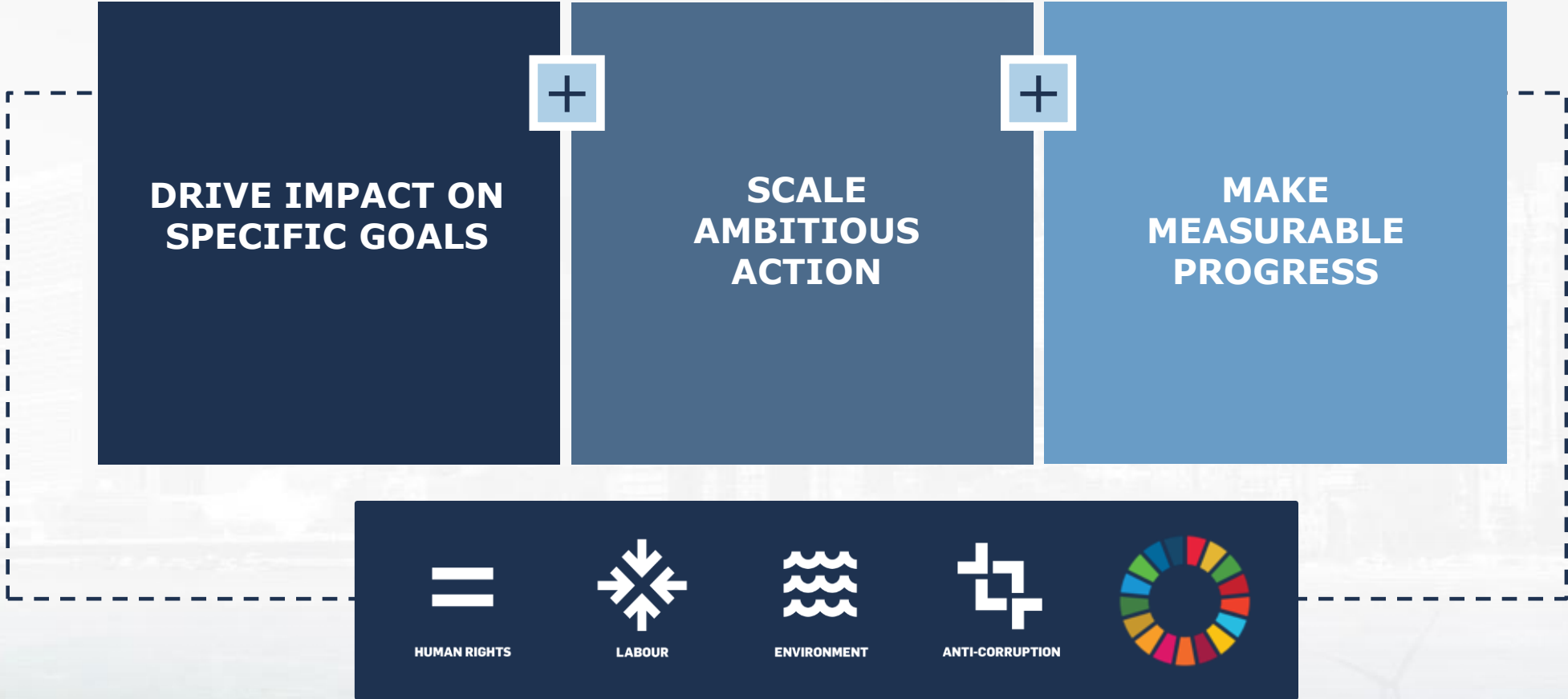
Increase efficiency and reduce supply chain disruption while helping vulnerable communities in water-challenged regions.



**ENABLING
COMPANIES TO
MAKE A POSITIVE
IMPACT**



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE VALUE



PROGRAMMES TAILORED FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION



ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE adaptation, mitigation & net zero, just transition, circularity

NATURE biodiversity

OCEAN stewardship, offshore renewables, food, blue finance

WATER stewardship & policy, resilience, water & sanitation



SOCIAL

GENDER women's representation & leadership, investing, male allyship

HUMAN RIGHTS diversity, equity & inclusion, target setting, legislation

LABOUR & DECENT WORK wages, collective bargaining, forced & child labour, discrimination



GOVERNANCE

ANTI-CORRUPTION collective action, partnerships, bribery, extortion

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE strong institution, collective action



ENABLERS

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE SDG investments & corporate finance, blended finance

SDG INTEGRATION business resilience, target setting, innovation

LEADERSHIP CEO mobilization & C-suite engagement

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS SME enablement

SCALE AMBITIOUS ACTION

FOR COMPANIES OF ALL SIZES, GEOGRAPHIES, AND STAGES OF SUSTAINABILITY

CONNECT | LEARN | LEAD

PORTFOLIO OF ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES* THAT SCALE CHANGE ACROSS 70+ COUNTRY NETWORKS AND 160 COUNTRIES, MNCs-> SMEs:

Events Regional and global gatherings	Tools & Resources Thought leadership & publications	The Academy Online courses and learning tools	Peer Learning Groups Facilitated learning groups	Accelerators Multi-month development programmes	Policy advocacy & campaigns Set ambitious targets with Forward Faster	Think Labs Shaping thought leadership
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Photo:Katie Rodriguez/Unsplash

MAKE MEASUREABLE PROGRESS

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS



Report annually

Complete our digital questionnaire annually to communicate performance, track and measure progress, and continually improve



Ongoing support

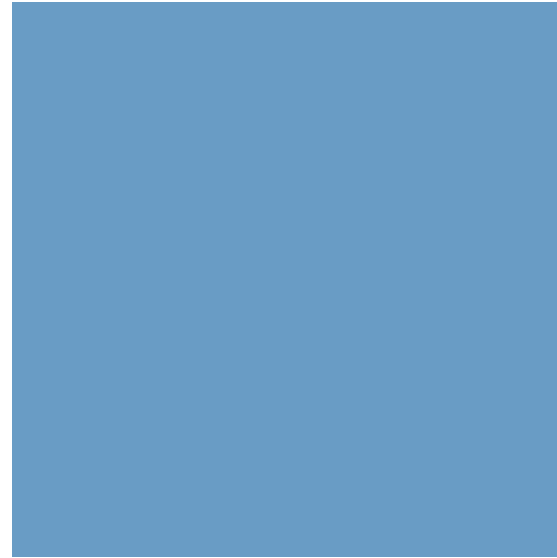
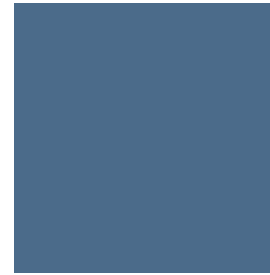
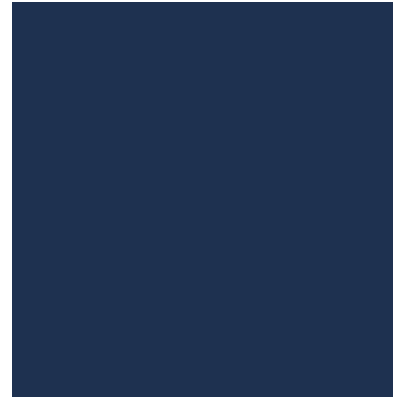
Stay current with legislative requirements through ongoing support and targeted Academy courses



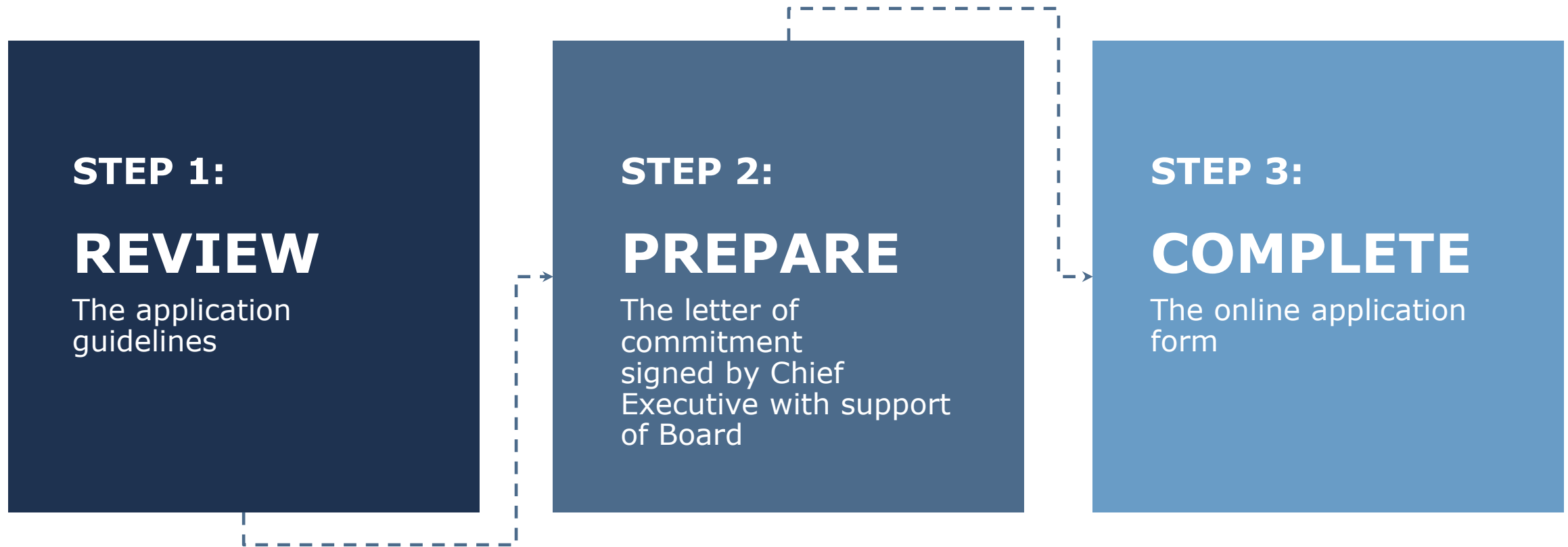
Peer Benchmarking

Compare progress with peers in your sector and region to understand your company's performance

HOW TO JOIN



THREE STEP JOINING PROCESS



unglobalcompact.org/join



JOIN US

Visit unglobalcompact.org/participation/join/application to apply