PRESS RELEASE

DR. YILMAZ ARGÜDEN MADE A CALL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In honor of the UN Global Compact’s 15. Anniversary, the Conference titled “Global Compact +15: Business as a Force for Good” was held in United Nations Headquarters during June 23-25, 2015. Global Compact Türkiye Chairman Dr. Yılmaz Argüden delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly in his capacity as the Chairman of the Global Compact Local Networks Advisory Group. Dr. Argüden stated: “Trust is the foundation of good governance and sustainable development. All institutions should take responsibility in employing good governance practices and forming partnerships towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.”

During the UN General Assembly session, global leaders such as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN General Assembly President Sam K. Kutesa, Nestle CEO Paul Bulcke, Unilever CEO Paul Polman, and Sinopec CEO Fu Chengyu also delivered speeches inviting business and civil society leaders to collaborate with the United Nations for overcoming universal challenges.

In honor of UN Global Compact’s 15. Anniversary, a conference titled “Global Compact +15: Business as a Force for Good” was held where business and civil society came together under the roof of United Nations to discuss private sector’s role in overcoming universal challenges and sharing best practices. Global Compact Türkiye Chairman Dr. Yılmaz Argüden delivered a speech at the General Assembly meeting where the accomplishments of the last 15 years were elaborated with government, private sector and UN representatives.

Dr. Argüden stated, “UN Global Compact has been the most prominent actor in determining the corporate sustainability agenda. Today, nearly 100 Local Networks are designing and executing innovative and inclusive approaches. However, we have long road ahead of us for overcoming the global challenges. Trust is the foundation of good governance and sustainable development. All institutions should take responsibility in employing good governance practices and forming partnerships towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. Going to scale and implementation need to be local. Therefore, Local Networks are key for the future of the sustainability movement. We should also align our incentive systems in financing, purchasing and taxing business with the sustainability goals in a manner that rewards the responsible businesses.” The speech that was made on June 25, 2015 was aired live on UN Television worldwide.
The sustainable development vision shared during the Global Compact +15 Conference includes the United Nations global agenda for sustainable development to be released later this year (Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs). The Conference brought together over 1,000 representatives from Global Compact Local Networks, business, investors, academy, civil society, labour organizations and UN private sector organizations. The Turkish delegation consisted of Global Compact Türkiye Chair Dr. Yılmaz Argüden, ARGE Consulting, Boyner Holding, Garanti Bank, TİSK, TÜSİAD and Yaşar University representatives.

During the Conference, various focused meetings were held such as; Business for Peace (B4P) Annual Event, Human Rights and Labour Working Group, Children’s Rights and Post 2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Supply Chain Advisory Group, Annual Local Networks Forum, Working Group Against Corruption, Business Association Forum on Sustainable Development. Moreover, Global Compact’s newest issue platform Business for Rule of Law was introduced during GC+15.

Global Compact is a call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals. Global Compact having the vision “sustainable and inclusive global economy” is the world’s largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative. Global Compact Türkiye, with its 304 signatories, is the 5th largest network in Europe and 11th largest in the world.