

Frequently Asked Questions

August 2016

United Nations (UN) Global Compact starts collecting data on private sector efforts to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Communication on Progress (COP).

1. Why is the UN Global Compact using the COP to collect data on private sector contribution to the SDGs?

By systematically collecting information on how businesses are helping to advance the SDGs, the UN Global Compact will contribute to the annual review and follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development led by the UN's High-level Political Forum. The new questions will also provide guidance to companies on how to act on the SDGs and will offer them the opportunity to showcase their sustainability strategies. The COP is the optimal means to do this at the largest possible scale and frequency, as all business participants must submit a COP at least annually.

2. What has been added to the current COP?

The UN Global Compact has added two, multiple-choice questions regarding the SDGs to the GC Active and GC Advanced COP questionnaires. View the new questions [here](#).

3. Who will see the new questions?

All business participants who submit a COP using the GC Active or GC Advanced questionnaires. These questions do not appear to participants who submit COPs using the express template or the basic template.

4. When will be these questions begin appearing?

Starting on or around 1 September 2016.

5. Do the answers to the new questions affect the COP's differentiation level?

No. How a company answers or does not answer the new questions does not affect its ability to submit a COP or the COP's differentiation level (GC Active, GC Advanced, GC Learner).

6. Are the new questions required?

While all business participants are highly encouraged and expected to answer the two new questions, they are optional, not required.

7. Are the answers to the new questions available to the public?

Like the other contents of the GC Active and GC Advanced questionnaires, all answers to the new questions are made visible to the public on the UN Global Compact website immediately after the company submits its COP. If either question is left blank, this too is visible to the public.

8. Are the questions available for reference in languages other than English?

New translations are rolled out on a regular basis. Access them [here](#).

9. What other, related changes to the COP are upcoming?

The two new questions are the first step of several to orient the COP toward the SDGs, enabling the UN Global Compact to collect more and more detailed, sophisticated, measurable, and useful information about the private sector's contribution to the SDGs. The UN Global Compact will use the next year to retool the COP and will invite input from many stakeholders in the process. In addition, surveys and other tools will complement the information gathered via the COPs.

For more information, see [this page](#). Please direct questions to reporting@unglobalcompact.org.