



# MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

*Transforming Education to  
Act Responsibly and Find Opportunities*

## WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all — laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of “Agenda 2030” are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want — applying to all nations and leaving no one behind.

We are all in agreement on where the world needs to go. The new global goals result from a process that has been more inclusive than ever, with governments involving business, civil society, higher education and citizens from the outset. The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), an initiative by the United Nations Global Compact, is a collaborative, collegial learning community that thrives on sharing good practices to inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.

## WHY DO THE SDGS MATTER TO YOU?

The SDGs are relevant for business and management schools. Higher Education Institutions have the ability to influence students with responsible and sustainable business practices. This influence shapes tomorrow’s business leaders and society.

	Business	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
How the SDGs Can Help	Strengthen the enabling environment for business	Strengthen and enable future business practitioners, thereby adding value to modern business and society
	Define future business opportunities	Give future business leaders the tools to recognize and maximize sustainable opportunities
	Enhance the business case for sustainable business practices	Create a paradigm for teaching, learning and understanding sustainability as core to the business model
	Allow for better stakeholder engagement	Connect with a network of stakeholders reaching beyond the business sphere, into signatories and supporting organisations
Setting Goals Linked to the SDGs	Scope defined by company’s strategic priorities	Scope defined by organisation’s strategic vision, accreditation standards and external partnerships
	Covers all dimensions of sustainable development	Covers all dimensions of sustainable development as implemented on an interdisciplinary scale
	Covers entire value chain	Covers value chain and all HEI stakeholders
	Specific, time-bound and measurable	Specific, time-bound and measurable
	Based on KPIs for impact or outcomes	Based on mission and strategic vision of HEI
	Explicitly linked to financial value drivers	Linked to value creation, financial drivers and future investment
	Integrated into performance evaluation and incentives	Integrated through all levels of the HEI and through strategic engagement with students

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

### *Individual Level: PRME signatories*

- Align curricula and research to the SDG commitments and agenda
- Insert new content, learning methods and transformative approaches (i.e., experiential and interdisciplinary learning and new skills into the curricula)
- Seek more applied research around the SDGs that can create solutions to help businesses be more effective and sustainable
- Engage with students to commit to and act in support of the SDGs
- Act as leaders of public opinion, advisers, suppliers of knowledge and solutions and mediators among businesses, government and civil society in support of the SDGs (contributing, for example, with the SDGs National Plans)
- Contribute through your PRME Chapter to scale-up efforts in your region and identify the local priorities towards building global sustainability

## Collective Level: PRME Chapters and Global Compact Local Networks

- Connect and collaborate with the PRME Chapter and Global Compact Local Network within your region
- Use the Local Global integrated strategic direction process from a bottom up approach to identify local priorities that can contribute to the advancement of the SDGs. This methodology is based on [Architecture for a Better World<sup>1</sup>](#) and provides strategic direction to the local-global relationship between the Global Compact Office and [Global Compact Local Networks](#). The process increases the potential impact of [PRME Chapters](#) and Global Compact Local Networks, offering an integrated local-global framework and agenda for transformative action in support of the SDGs. Find more information [here](#).
- Share your good practices, learn from peers and contribute to the many projects developed around the SDGs
- Join PRME Working Groups and the thought leadership PRME Champions group
- Host events and webinars to raise awareness
- Conduct training meetings to help PRME signatories and other stakeholders understand how they can contribute to the SDGs
- Define local priorities based on the SDGs
- Participate in national government action plans in your country

	UN Global Compact	Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)
Maximising Your Engagement	"...To create a sustainable and inclusive global economy that delivers lasting benefits to people, communities and markets."	"...To inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally."
	<b>Ten Principles</b> Universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption	<b>Six Principles</b> Internationally accepted values creating an engagement structure that advances social responsibility in curricula and research
	<b>Global Issues Initiatives</b> Bringing business together on topics such as anti-corruption, children's rights, climate, food and agriculture, gender equality, peace, rule of law, and water and sanitation	<b>Working Groups</b> Collaborating across institutions and disciplines to advance topics of anti-corruption, business for peace, gender equality and poverty alleviation
	<b>Local Networks</b> Supporting participants to drive sustainability in 85 countries	<b>Chapters</b> Supporting HEIs to promote responsible management education in 83 countries
	<b>General Resources</b>	
	<b>UN-Business Action Hub</b> An online platform to find partners and post commitments and goals to advance the SDGs	
	<b>Guidance Materials</b> Over 200 resources developed by the <a href="#">UN Global Compact</a> , <a href="#">PRME</a> and our partners, such as the <a href="#">Transformational Model for PRME Implementation</a> , <a href="#">Partner with Business Schools to Advance Sustainability: Ideas to Inspire Action</a> , <a href="#">The First Report on PRME Chapters</a> , and the <a href="#">SDG Compass</a>	
	Engage with the SDGs through <a href="#">unprme.org</a> , the <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goals portal</a> , or the <a href="#">PRIMEtime blog</a> . Also, tag <a href="#">#PRME</a> , <a href="#">#SDGs</a> and <a href="#">#GlobalGoals</a> on social media to publicize your commitment. Share your SIP Report online using <a href="#">#PRME</a> to publicly highlight your work and good practices with followers around the PRME network.	

## PRME AND THE SDGs: MAKE A COMMITMENT, REPORT RESULTS, INSPIRE CHANGE

Through the PRME "network of networks," signatories gain access to a dynamic global-local learning community that collaborates on projects and events addressing complex challenges faced by business and society today. This vibrant community supports signatories in advancing their commitment to Responsible Management Education and the SDGs, reporting on their results and inspiring change throughout the global community.

The PRME SIP policy requires that signatories report at least once every two years. More details on the SIP Report can be found in the [SIP Toolkit](#). Through the report, signatories are invited to share their progress, good practices and actions in support of the SDGs.

<sup>1</sup> Launched at the 2013 Leaders Summit, the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture was created through a partnership between The United Nations Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

## THE 6 PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

As institutions of higher education involved in the development of current and future managers we declare our willingness to progress in the implementation, within our institution, of the following Principles, starting with those that are more relevant to our capacities and mission. We will report on progress to all our stakeholders and exchange effective practices related to these principles with other academic institutions:



**Purpose:** We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.



**Values:** We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.



**Method:** We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.



**Research:** We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social environmental and economic value.



**Partnership:** We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.



**Dialogue:** We will facilitate and support dialogue and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.



We understand that our own organisational practices should serve as example of the values and attitudes we convey to our students.