

## The Business Coalition for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation

### 1. Background:

The launching of the Business Coalition for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation is a response to the call made by representatives from the private sector who participated in the Second Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Istanbul, April 6-7, 2009. It is also based on recommendations of the joint Alliance of Civilizations-Global Compact publication entitled “Doing Business in a Multicultural World: Challenges and Opportunities”.

In partnership with the United Nations Global Compact Office, the UN Alliance of Civilizations is committed to engaging the business community, recognizing the crucial role that business can play in establishing dialogue and improving understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions.

### 2. Mission of the Business Coalition for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation:

To provide an international platform for companies from all around the world, business associations and other stakeholders to:

- Advocate the crucial role of business in 1) building bridges for intercultural dialogue and cooperation in its area of influence, as well as 2) fair treatment of diversity and promotion of trust and respect at the workplace, at the market and in the society.
- Share challenges and lessons learned among companies and other actors with a view to sharing good practices.

### 3. Main Features of the Coalition:

- Strong ownership of the participating companies in the design of the Coalition’s activities.
- Platform for peer-exchange of best practices and concrete corporate activities in support of the missions of the Alliance of Civilizations.
- The Research Centre for the Global Compact at The Levin Institute will serve as an executive body of the Coalition, led by the UN Alliance of Civilizations and the UN Global Compact Office.

#### About the UN Alliance of Civilizations

The Alliance of Civilizations seeks to reduce tensions across cultural divides that threaten to inflame existing political conflicts or trigger new ones. Working with its global network of government partners, the Alliance promotes policies and initiatives aimed at improving relations between diverse cultural groups. It also works at grassroots level, promoting innovative projects in education, youth, media and migration in order to build trust, reconciliation and mutual respect among diverse communities. For more information, please visit [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)

#### About the UN Global Compact

Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact is both a policy platform and a practical framework for companies that are committed to sustainability and responsible business practices. As a multi-stakeholder leadership initiative, it seeks to align business operations and strategies with 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption and to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals. It is the world’s largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative, with over 5,000 signatories based in more than 130 countries. For more information, please visit [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org).

#### About the Research Centre for the Global Compact at The Levin Institute

Located in the heart of New York City, the Research Centre was created in October 2008 as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Global Compact and the State University of New York. The Research Centre is housed at The Levin Institute for International Relations and Commerce in New York. The **mission** of the Research Centre for the Global Compact is to engage in research and academic activities consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Global Compact, in close coordination with the United Nations Global Compact Office.