

## A Compact for the New Century

At the World Economic Forum, Davos, on 31 January 1999, UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan challenged world business leaders to "embrace and enact" the Global Compact, both in their individual corporate practices and by supporting appropriate public policies. These principles cover topics in **human rights, labour** and **environment**:

### Human Rights

The Secretary-General asked world business to:

**Principle 1:** support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence; and

**Principle 2:** make sure their own corporations are not complicit in human rights abuses.

### Labour

The Secretary-General asked world business to uphold:

**Principle 3:** freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

**Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### Environment

The Secretary-General asked world business to:

**Principle 7:** support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

**Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.