



Position Description: Chairperson of the Board

An opportunity exists for an experienced board member with a passion for corporate sustainability and responsibility to bring their skills to the Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) and lead the organisation through its next phase of evolution and growth.

About us

The [Global Compact Network Australia](#) (GCNA) is the Australian network of the [United Nations Global Compact](#); the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, and one of Australia's leading initiatives in the space. We are a business-led but multi-stakeholder membership organisation, working to support our members to implement the principles of the UN Global Compact and promote corporate responsibility and sustainability in Australia. The GCNA has over 80 members, including eight of the top 10 ASX-listed companies. Our revenue is derived from membership fees, events and Australian Government funding.

The United Nations Global Compact is the UN's voluntary corporate sustainability initiative in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption. It revolves around ten universal principles drawn from four key international instruments in these areas, and facilitating cooperation and collective action in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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The GCNA Chairperson

As a leading voice for the GCNA, including amongst Australia's leading businesses, the Chair brings their leadership and influence to the GCNA to assist the organisation with meeting its vision to be the "leading driver of effective business practices that deliver social, economic and environmental gains".

As the Chair, you will leverage your relationships with Australian CEOs and Boards to promote the work of the GCNA and responsible business practices that are aligned to the [UN Global Compact's 10 Principles](#). This will also involve promoting and convening dialogue with Australia's c-suite leaders on responsible business practices, the SDGs and elevating the GCNA as the peak body in Australia for corporate responsibility and sustainability, including speaking publicly at GCNA and non-GCNA events.

You will also be responsible for the leadership of the GCNA Board and ensuring that the organisation meets its commitments to its members.

Role of the Chairperson

The responsibilities of the Chair include:

- Being a leading voice to members for GCNA's activities and vision;
- Leading the Board;
- Hosting CEO/Chair events, including facilitating dialogue between CEOs/Chairs and the GCNA;
- Contacting and engaging CEOs/Chairs to discuss matters relevant to the GCNA charter;
- Speaking at flagship events on behalf of the GCNA;
- Approving the agenda for Board meetings, attending the Board meetings and facilitating Board discussions;
- Managing the Board's relationship with the Executive Director;
- To Chair, serve on or attend Committees of the Board;
- Ensure that the Board is governed in a manner in accordance with the Board Charter and Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);
- To be a mentor to the Executive Director; and
- Working with the Executive Director to build membership and assist with building networks with senior business leader.

The role of the GCNA Board

The GCNA Board's responsibilities are to:

- Work with the Executive Director and Board to set the strategic direction for the GCNA;
- Maintain proper process to ensure compliance with Board policies, the Board Charter and the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) requirements;
- Ensure that the composition of the Board is appropriate, approve and review succession plans for the Board and the Australian Representative, including regularly reviewing the performance of the Board itself;
- Protect and promote the GCNA's reputation and standing; and
- Select, appoint and determine the terms of appointment of the Executive Director, including delegated powers to ensure the effective day-to-day management of the GCNA.

General attributes

The Chairperson is expected to demonstrate:

- A genuine interest and commitment to responsible business practices and in the vision and purpose of the GCNA, the UN Global Compact and the SDGs.
- Holds strong and diversified relationships with ASX-listed CEOs and Boards.
- Collaborator and networker who has a strong ability to forge new relationships across various sectors and industries.
- Business experience at a senior management or executive level.
- Experienced director, preferably with Chair or Deputy Chair experience.
- Forward thinker who can influence and shape the future direction of organisations.



- A competent and confident public speaker who has proficiency in engaging diverse audiences.
- Has a high level of integrity and accountability, including superior knowledge of directors' duties and responsibilities and putting the GCNA's interests before other interests.
- Confidence to provide constructive challenge and oversight, including challenging management and fellow directors where appropriate.

Minimum requirements

The Chairperson is expected to demonstrate:

- Business experience at a senior management or executive level.
- Experience as a company director, preferably with Chair or Deputy Chair experience.
- Strong knowledge of directors' duties.
- Public speaking experience to a broad range of audiences.
- Strong financial literacy skills and the ability to interpret and understand financial reports.
- Superior governance skills, including an understanding of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) requirements.
- Appropriate legal literacy to understand the Board's primary obligations and associated legal obligations.

Payment and Eligibility

To be eligible you must be an Australian citizen, or permanent resident and have current work rights for Australia.

This is a voluntary Chairperson position.

Application Process

Please apply by way of cover letter and CV to the Deputy Chair, Megan Christensen, via secretariat@unglobalcompact.org.au by **COB 16 November 2018**.