

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme



Kenya

The Kenya Power and Lighting Company joins UN Global Compact Network

Nairobi, Kenya, 19 October 2007-The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has recently joined the United Nations Global Compact and became the 26th member of the Global Compact Kenya Network. In a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General, the company committed to making the Global Compact's principles a part of their strategy in day to day culture of the company's operations. Furthermore, the company committed to submitting annually a Communication of Progress (COP), a Report that describes the company's action plans and activities to implement or strengthen the ten principles of the Global Compact.

Don Priestman, the company's General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, stated that "KPLC's business impacts on all sectors of the national economy, and in keeping with tenets of good corporate governance and transparency, the company signed up for the Global Compact". The company is the sole distributor of electricity in Kenya and improved on its profitability trend during the period July 2006 and June 2007 increasing pre-tax profit by 6 percent to Kenya shillings 2.6 billion, compared to 2.5 billion in the previous period. KPLC also connected 120,000 new customers during the period and will continue to connect a similar number each year, which will spur demand for electricity and promote economic growth.

Background on Global Compact- In an address to the World Economic Forum on 31 January 1999, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, challenged business leaders to join an international initiative – the Global Compact – that would bring companies together with UN agencies, labour and civil society to support universal environmental and social principles. The Global Compact's operational phase was launched at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 July 2000. Today, thousands of companies from all regions of the world, international labour and civil society organizations are engaged in the Global Compact, working to advance [ten universal principles](#) in the areas of [human rights](#), [labour](#), [the environment](#) and [anti-corruption](#).

Stefan Engels, the United Nations' Focal Point for the Global Compact in Kenya, welcomed KPLC as the newest member to the Network: "We are very happy to have the commitment of KPLC as they represent an important part of Kenya's economy and its private-sector. The addition of KPLC strengthens our Global Compact Kenya Network, which plays an increasingly important role in addressing private-sector issues in a dialogue with Government."

Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to promote responsible corporate citizenship so that business can be part of the solution to the challenges of globalisation. In this way, the private sector – in partnership with other social actors – can help realize the Secretary-General's vision: a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

The Global Compact is a purely voluntary initiative with two objectives:

- Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world
- Catalyse actions in support of UN goals

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