BUSINESS REPORTING ON THE SDGs AND THE VNRs

Bernhard Frey
Senior Manager, SDG Impact and Reporting
AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTION
2. CORPORATE REPORTING ON THE SDGs: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
3. MOBILIZING BUSINESSES TO REPORT ON THE SDGs AND SUPPORT VNRs
UN GLOBAL COMPACT: OVERVIEW

HUMAN RIGHTS

9,700+ businesses committed to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

LABOUR

3,000+ non-business members

ENVIRONMENT

160+ countries with UN Global Compact participants

ANTI-CORRUPTION

28% of Fortune 500 companies

66M people employed in a company participating in the UN Global Compact
CORPORATE REPORTING ON THE SDGs – TRENDS AND THE BUSINESS CASE
72% of companies in study mention the SDGs in their annual corporate or sustainability report.

50% of companies in study have identified priority SDGs.

54% of those that prioritised the Goals, mention them in their business strategy.

*PwC - SDG Reporting Challenge 2018 (study of 729 companies from 21 countries and territories and six broad industry sectors)
WHY SHOULD BUSINESS REPORT ON THE SDGs?

To engage stakeholders and explain how your business strategy contributes to the SDG agenda

To support sustainable decision-making processes and demonstrate (with data and narrative) how your business identifies and mitigates risks

To drive value creation and showcase (with data and narrative) how your business leverages opportunities

To hold the organization accountable for making progress towards societal goals
CHALLENGES RELATED TO CORPORATE SDG REPORTING

- Lack of harmonization and consistency (comparability)
- ‘SDG-washing’ and ‘cherry-picking’
- Insufficient understanding of stakeholders SDG-information needs (e.g. governments)
- Measuring actual impact (context-based target setting and reporting)
- Digitization / data access and collection
- Data accuracy and reliability / data verification
MOBILIZING BUSINESS TO REPORT ON THE SDGs AND SUPPORT VNRs
BUSINESS REPORTING ON THE SDGs – THREE CONNECTED GUIDES

Find them in the UN Global Compact Library: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library
LEVERAGING UN GLOBAL COMPACT’s COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS

• UNGC business participants are required to submit an annual communication on progress (CoP) as a sign of their ongoing commitment to UNGC’s Ten Principles

• The COP is the largest repository of corporate sustainability data

• In 2020, the UNGC will be reviewing the COP to determine ways that it can be improved and enhanced
GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORKS CAN SUPPORT VNRs

- 67 Business-led country-level networks of Global Compact participating companies
- Identify local priorities and help advance the UN Global Compact’s mission at the country and regional levels
- Support GC participating companies in implementing the ten principles and the SDGs
- Facilitate and engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships
SOME COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY LEVERAGING CORPORATE SDG DATA

- E.g. Colombia: Pilot project implemented by the government with GRI, UNDP, Global Compact Network Colombia and other partners to gather sustainability data of select companies on select SDGs

- E.g. Denmark: DK Statistics has created an online platform to gather data, including from the private sector, that complements official statistics needed for its VNRs