



Young SDG Innovators: An Exciting Opportunity for Young Professionals

The UN Global Compact Young SDG Innovators Programme engages young professionals from companies participating in the UN Global Compact around the world to learn how to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a catalyst for the development of new products and services. It is an exciting professional development opportunity for high-potential employees and future business leaders, activating and challenging them to rethink traditional business models and unlock new business opportunities. Each team of young Innovators will, over the course of 10 months, work on a challenge specific to their company with the goal of designing more sustainable business models, initiatives and products that will advance the company's sustainability efforts while driving innovation and delivering tangible solutions with potential market value.

Participating companies may nominate between one and three Innovators from different business units (e.g., Business Development, R&D, Sustainability).

In addition to participating in the programme, Innovators are provided:

- A team Champion — a senior-level executive in their company to help sponsor the ideas and outcomes of the programme within the company
- A dedicated team Mentor to guide them through programme ideation and design process
- Access to a global group of Experts on sustainability, business innovation and disruptive technologies
- A platform to connect to all other Innovator teams around the globe to share ideas, support the innovation process and challenge each other

The programme offers young professionals the tools, skills and support they will need to tackle some of their companies' biggest challenges as they relate to sustainable development, and to design solutions that have real market value and that advance the SDGs. Innovators are given the opportunity to learn from thought-leaders in the sustainability and disruptive technology fields, to increase their capacity for innovation, and to work collaboratively with like-minded young professionals from other leading companies.

Time Commitment

Participation comprises 10 days of in-person meetings across five (5) innovation camps over the course of 10 months. Innovators are also expected to spend an estimated two to three hours weekly on online self-learning and collaboration activities in between meetings through online challenges, activities and group work.

Key Qualifications

The programme is open for Innovators who are 35 years old or younger and have some professional experience in their company. The ideal candidate will also have the following characteristics:

- Solid understanding of their company's business and a good sense of the risks and opportunities related to sustainability
- An ability to readily grasp the topics of business model innovation and disruptive technologies



- “Young” in the sense that they are not tasked with senior management responsibilities and have the ability to bring a fresh perspective to the strategic direction of the company
- Ability to collaborate and a natural tendency to seek, embrace and integrate diverse views from a diverse group of people

Desired Qualifications

- Creative: can generate original ideas or concepts and think around conventional limitations
- Entrepreneurial: can generate maximum impact with modest inputs
- Persuasive: can communicate effectively to colleagues and stakeholders at all levels
- Strategic and tactical: can see the big picture and has a bias for action
- Employees from diverse business units, such as R&D/RTD, innovation, marketing, customer service/experience, sustainability, sales, logistics and procurement are encouraged to apply
- Working proficiency in English, allowing for interaction and collaboration with peers from other global companies, thought leaders and experts around the world (Note: All innovation camps are delivered in the national language of the participating country. Global sessions are delivered in English with translation available.)

[Learn more about the programme here.](#)

If you wish to represent your company in this programme, please [submit the application form.](#)