



# Peer Learning Groups

Connecting sustainability professionals to drive collective impact

## SME Peer Learning Group Session pre-read: Anti-Corruption

### Topic background

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, and is detrimental to business of all types and sizes — large and small, multinational and local — though it poses a unique set of problems for smaller firms. Available data strongly suggests that the smaller the firm is, the more likely it is to be affected by corruption, yet small and medium sized companies (SMEs) often lack resources, information and experience to implement effective anti-corruption measures. The most prevalent and well-known form of corruption affecting SMEs is bribery — the offering or accepting by a public official of any undue advantage in order that the official acts or refrains from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties. In this respect, SMEs are frequently faced with requests for additional payments for services they are entitled to anyway. However, bribery is not the only form of corruption that plays a major role in the sphere of SMEs. Embezzlement or misappropriation of funds by a company's own employees, extortion, fraud, trading in influence, and protectionism, all have a significant direct influence.

In this session participants will explore how they can take action on the 10th Principle and be empowered to fight corruption by discussing common challenges, best practice and solutions and enablers to develop anti-corruption policies and programmes within their organization.

### Before the session

#### Questions to consider:

- What policies does your business have in place to work against corruption in all its forms? (Principle 10)
- Has your company mapped out any corruption risks within your business operations or supply chain? If yes, what did you learn from doing the mapping? What actions did it lead you to take?
- Has your company set any goals on anti-corruption (e.g., zero incidences of bribery)? If yes, what are they?

### Recommended pre-session materials

- UN Global Compact e-learning course: Assessing the risk of corruption to your business
  - [link](#) for UNGC participants
  - [link](#) for non-participants