

Board of Directors for the Future

1. Starting point

A study published in 2015 by MIT, in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group and the UN Global Compact revealed that only 22% of respondents confirmed that their Board of Directors were engaged in sustainability efforts. The biggest obstacles to stronger board commitment mentioned were: uncertainty of economic value; a lack of sustainability expertise by board members; and a prioritization of short-term success and shareholder value.

To meet future challenges and to ensure that the business model is sustainable, various international and national initiatives have called for the strengthening of the role of the Board of Directors in guiding their company's sustainability efforts. International organizations such as the UN Global Compact, World Economic Forum and the World Bank, as well as the Responsible Business Initiative in Switzerland, amongst other things, are focusing on this issue.

For Switzerland, it is assumed that the topic of sustainability is an integral part of business strategy and decision-making at the Board level. To confirm this and to learn how Board of Directors are ensuring the future viability of their companies and how they are conducting due diligence, an evening event will be convened in Geneva beginning of 2017.

¹MIT (2015), Joining Forces. Collaboration and Leadership for Sustainability [here](#).

2. Event Objective & Target Audience

The objectives of the event are to discuss how the role of board members in guiding their company's sustainability efforts can be strengthened and to identify areas where board members need support in order to assume their responsibility.

The target audiences for the event are board members and members of the management from listed companies, as well as SMEs and Start-Ups.

3. Time & Location

Date: March 9, 2017
Time: 17:00 – 20:00
Venue: MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, S.A., Chemin Rieu 12, 1208 Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda

Time	Topic / Speaker
From 17:00	Arrival of participants
17:15	Welcome Address Antonio Hautle, Senior Programme Leader of the Global Compact Network Switzerland (GCNS)
17:30	Perspectives on the importance of Corporate Responsibility for Boards of Directors <i>Input presentation by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon, Geneva Finance Research Institute and board member SwissRe• Raul Manjarin, Business Development Manager RepRisk AG
18:15	Panel Discussion on the need for action <i>Panel Members include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regi Aalstad, Board member of Geberit and Telenor• Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon, Geneva Finance Research Institute and board member SwissRe• Maximilian Martin, Global Head of Philanthropy at Lombard Odier• Katrin Muff, Dean Business School Lausanne• Huub Savelkouls, Vice President Strategic Policy Initiatives at Philip Morris International <i>Moderated by:</i>
19:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara Dubach, CEO and Founder engageability
	Conclusion, Closing Remarks and Drinks Antonio Hautle, Senior Programme Leader of the Global Compact Network Switzerland (GCNS)

Contact

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