



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN management issues for decision

ESBN Executive Council, 3rd Meeting
15 May 2020
Virtual

Increasing ambition

- **The time for increasing ambition is now**
 - With only 10 years to go for the SDGs, we cannot afford to lose more time.
 - COVID-19 has shown how vulnerable societies are, re-emphasizing the need for more inclusive and sustainable development, and to build back better.
- **Ambition loops can help drive progress**
 - Clear commitment and ambitious action by leading companies can create 'ambition loops' – to help increase ambition levels of government policies, and drive action among followers.
- **This requires large businesses to take a lead, and raise the bar in the region**
 - ESNB needs to attract leading business figures to engage and push for ambitious action, on SDGs and on GHG emissions



Conclusions from the 1st and 2nd ESBN Executive Council meetings

1. The value-added of ESBN is in leveraging members' knowledge, skills, networks and resources for collective action, and galvanizing individual action through peer-inspiration.
2. For the ESBN to have tangible impact, it needs to move to corporate membership and attract big companies.
3. ESBN should strive to bring the 3-4 top companies from each ESCAP member State, represented at the level of the no. 3 or 4 in the company.
4. ESBN need to become more impact oriented. This will require a clear and common view of what the ESBN aims to achieve, and related key performance indicators (KPIs).
5. Better alignment between ESBN and ESCAP is needed for increased impact.
6. Focus on innovations and solutions for SDGs involving technology.



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ESBN Vision

- A regional **network of corporate sustainability leaders**, to advance progress on the SDGs through:
 1. **impactful initiatives of collective action**, and
 2. **inspiring a 'race to the top'** and internalizing sustainability into the company mission and operations

To get there...

1. Move to corporate/organizational membership
2. Adopt a requirement of demonstrable sustainability commitments of ESNB members
 - ✓ Sustainability commitment
 - ✓ Annual sustainability reporting
 - ✓ Climate targets and action
3. Expand membership by targeting new corporate members
 - ✓ Target companies that are taking a lead on sustainability in the region
4. Focus on a few key initiatives
 - ✓ Refocus task forces from generic to specific, outcome oriented and time-bound
5. Increase ESNB visibility and ensure financial sustainability

Next steps

1. Agree on ESBN vision and requirements.
2. Reach out to existing members to convert membership by end 2021.
3. Active recruitment: Invite proposals for new members from ESBN members, reach out to global compact networks, business associations, and others to propose and help reach out to new potential members
4. Gather proposals for and decide on key ESBN initiatives.
 1. Launch issue-based initiatives to identify how to drive change (e.g. water, energy, buildings, transport, etc.), including concrete work plans and targets.
 2. Use ESBN platform to inspire individual company action on sustainability (peer-learning, joint commitments/calls to action, etc.).
5. Develop a communications plan to increase visibility and outreach

Thank you

