

Communication on Engagement to the UN Global Compact 2020-2021

Vienna, February 2022

1. Statement of Commitment

ICEP is an independent Austrian association engaged in the sector of global development. The organization aims at integrating people in economic cycles, by connecting them with businesses and laying the foundation for self-empowerment. The team at ICEP advises partner organizations and companies in low- and middle-income countries as well as the organizations home country Austria, on how to integrate people properly and sustainably in economic activities, emphasizing the important role that businesses can play in tackling global challenges.

ICEP is the initiator of the **corporAID platform**, which provides companies a forum to exchange knowledge and information around topics such as corporate social responsibility, business & development as well as ways to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in a business context.

The UN Global Compact Principles are one of the main pillars of our activities and lay the foundation for our shared understanding, which we try to advance in our sphere of influence. ICEP fully commits to pursuing these principles as part of our actions.

2. Description of Practical Actions

In 2020 and 2021, ICEP contributed to the UN Global Compact Principles in the following areas:

Business Partnerships

ICEP supports companies to create value for their businesses as well as society along their global value chains. This goal is primarily achieved by initiating projects within the Business Partnership Program, governed by the Austrian Development Agency. Despite travel restrictions due to the pandemic, ICEP was able to maintain and push existing projects as well as develop new ones, such as with Lohmann & Rauscher – a manufacturer of medical- and hygiene products – who wants to improve training for wound care in Malaysia. With the help of ICEP, the fiber producer Lenzing was able to achieve the best category in the “Canopy-Ranking” for sustainable sourcing of wood and cellulose. Lastly, in 2021, a feasibility study for the Austrian recycling company Komptech was completed. Environmental and social standards are at the heart of ICEP’s Social Impact Consulting.

Awareness, Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

Through the corporAID-platform, ICEP consistently provides new input on how to activate businesses for topics in the realm of international development. This is achieved by highlighting

companies that already engage in a sustainable and inclusive way. By bringing businesses that respect and live the principles of the UN Global Compact in front of the curtain, ICEP raises awareness for the solutions that companies can provide in order to tackle global challenges. ICEP highlights synergies with the private sector and shows that responsible businesses can foster innovative solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020 and 2021, ICEP published 8 more issues of the quarterly corporAID magazine, covering topics directly related to the UN Global Compact Principles. The magazine is a quarterly supplement to the daily newspaper “DiePresse”, therefore providing access to a substantial audience. In addition, the corporAID-platform is increasingly moving its activities to the online world, with more dominant presence on social media platforms. New formats such as podcasts and short videos on key questions regarding business & development and global responsibility complement the broad spectrum of activities.

During the corporAID conference 2020 (“Global Green Recovery”), keynotes from and interviews with experts gave insights to what it needs to recover from the Covid-pandemic, while simultaneously laying the foundation to effectively deal with the even more pressing global climate crisis. In addition, continuous dialogue with various stakeholders in the form of events on topics such as Open Innovation, Impact Investing, SDGs, or Business in Africa is being held.

SDG Business Forum

Since 2018 and on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, ICEP has been implementing the SDG Business Forum project with the aim to introduce Austrian companies to new markets in emerging and developing countries in the context of the Agenda 2030.

New Programs

Lastly, new initiatives such as the “Lab of Tomorrow”, conducted in cooperation with the German GIZ and other public institutions are seen as another method to highlight the complementary role of business & development. They also act as a way to continuously push said topics in the agenda of public partners and ministries.

3. Measurement of Outcomes

The corporAID magazine has an annual volume of 280.000 magazines and 200-300 individuals participate in the various corporAID- and ICEP events each year. Followers on our social media channels are continuously increasing e.g. by 50% on LinkedIn year on year. For the upcoming years, ICEP is aiming at further establishing its digital presence and thereby expanding its target audience and outreach with digital means. Our corporAID-newsletter reaches 3.000 individuals annually. ICEP has taken part in national policy processes and participated in Austrian networks that had the potential to enhance the active role of companies in achieving a sustainable and inclusive economy.

In 2020/21, an external evaluation of ICEP’s awareness activities focusing on Austrian businesses and funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation was carried out. The main findings were adopted in the activities to come.

Detailed information can be found in the Annual Report for 2020 (2021 pending), which is attached to this letter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernhard Weber'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Bernhard' and the last name 'Weber' clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Bernhard Weber
Managing Director