

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS 2011

BISC Group

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STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

As we entered the new millennium, businesses worldwide were starting to realize an unmatched awareness among different parts of society about the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility. As a result, new policies, strategies, and implementation methods began emerging to meet the increasing expectations from stakeholders to be socially and environmentally responsible. Since then, we have been keen to improve our understanding about the matter while we gradually integrated CSR into our daily operations and the very core values by which we make business.

BISC Group is one of the few pioneers in the country, and even the region to recognize CSR as a strategic component of any business that wishes to continue and thrive sustainably. We therefore are very serious about taking responsibility for our actions and supporting the growth and development of our people and communities while minimizing our impact on the environment.

As the nature of our work already entails us to actively interact with organizations from different sectors countrywide, and since CSR calls for increased engagement with various stakeholders, we continually thrive to put CSR at the heart of what we do while investing our core competencies and capabilities to spread the CSR knowledge among all segments of society. We do this through our consultancy work, networking activities, studies and reports, workshops or events on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Other than the private sector which we are part of, we certainly acknowledge the support of leading business figures, business associations, governmental institutions, academics, media, CSOs, and international organizations to improving relationships between corporations and the society; and although we are a small company, our strong belief in responsible business prompts us in doing our part in society, while this is evident through the many achievements we have accomplished in a relatively short amount of time.

This first COP is a document portraying our continued commitment to the UN Global Compact and its 10 principles. It is the result of a thorough review of our policies, practices, achievements, and future plans relating to the ways in which we apply our core values and commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

We moreover commit to providing an annual communication which updates our stakeholders on the progress we make.

Khaled Kassar
Founder & CEO
BISC Group

ABOUT BISC Group

Who We Are

BISC Group was founded in 1995 as Beirut Information and Studies Center, offering business information, daily banking and financial news monitoring and specialized corporate publishing in the Lebanese Market.

Headquartered in Beirut, BISC Group is active in the Middle East with a GCC office based in Dubai since 2003. We have also undertaken projects in the South East Asia region and have a representative office in Singapore.

Our Approach to CSR

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), based on years of belief, research and experience, is an essential part of BISC Group's core business and consultancy services. We organize country CSR awareness campaigns and advise companies on complying with best practices, embedding CSR strategies and implement new ideas, initiatives and social project development.

Our Vision

To develop our community by leading the field in business intelligence and corporate citizenship

Our Mission

By advocating universal values, standards and Business Ethics, BISC's mission is to provide the most useful, accurate and highest quality information and raising awareness about CSR.

Our Values

We believe that good ethics and good business go together naturally to produce the best long-term results for all our stakeholders. Integrity, transparency, human capital and ethical business have always been at the heart of BISC Group. They are part of who we are, our values, and our heritage.

SPREADING THE WORD

Since most of our work is in research, media, and communications, we continually work to capitalize on our existing tools in order to effectively reach our stakeholders and the wider audience. Among our main objectives is to spread the CSR message:

BISC GROUP PUBLICATIONS & CONSULTING SERVICES



BISC Group offers consultancy, networking, studies and reports, workshops and events on Corporate Social Responsibility. BISC also issues books and publications, with the latest book “Green Responsibility” fully dedicated to sustainability and ethical living. We make sure all BISC publications emphasize business responsibility while aiming to raise awareness on CSR and promoting ethical performance in the business environment.

COMMITTING TO THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF THE UNGC

Herewith the additional ways in which BISC Group supports and promotes the UN Global Compact Principles:

HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1: Business should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights

Principle 2: Business should ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Approach	Practice
By advocating business ethics, BISC Group focuses on the values of diversity, teamwork, and community impact, and strives to be a catalyst in the community and a brand synonymous with commitment to long-term goals and solutions.	“Human Rights” is a major topic tackled throughout our publications and other media outlets. We work relentlessly to change private and public behavior towards society by using our website and daily newsletter to shed light on untapped situations and raising public debate based on violations of human rights.
BISC Group builds and maintains strong relationships with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) targeting humanitarian and developmental causes.	Our work entails us to cooperate on a national level with NGOs, educational institutions, and other non-profit organizations to plan and implement developmental projects aiming to raise societal standards, especially where human rights’ issues are concerned. An example is our close collaboration with the Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD).

LABOUR

Principle 3: Business should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

Principle 4: Business should support the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

Principle 5: Business should support the effective abolition of child labour.

Principle 6: Business should support the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Approach	Practice
BISC Group provides fair consideration, remuneration, reward and incentive to all personnel at the company, and constantly works on developing and improving appropriate remuneration, reward and incentive mechanisms and frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Processes of remuneration are agreed upon and implemented with complete transparency, in accordance with appropriate levels of confidentiality.- BISC Group encourages and rewards outstanding performance and contribution to organizational success. Methods of encouragement vary from financial incentives to any kind of status empowerment.
BISC Group enforces Labor Laws of Lebanese Government prohibiting employment discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In addition to home practice, BISC Group strongly encourages anti-discrimination policies, activities, and projects through its consulting services and media platform.
BISC Group is against child labor and complies with the minimum age provisions of Lebanese Labor law and regulations.	Employment under the age of 18 is strictly prohibited at the company.

ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Business should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

Principle 8: Business should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

Principle 9: Business should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Approach	Practice
Internal operations at BISC Group are usually undergone with an environmental friendly approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Daily practices at the company premises are performed while taking into consideration issues such as energy saving, waste management, recycling material, among others.- BISC Group new publications are mostly done

with certified and recyclable material. Our new book “Green Responsibility” was entirely printed on 100% recyclable material.

BISC Group promotes environmental innovations and eco-friendly technologies and solutions.

BISC Group encourages environmental friendly products, projects, and technologies through its different media outlet.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Approach	Practice
BISC Group is against all forms of corruption.	- BISC Group is committed to ethical behavior, accuracy and transparency.
BISC Group’s media outlet works in favor of anti-corruption behavior.	- Through its different media outlet, BISC Group condemns and discourages corporate and public corruption acts, and encourages transparent and ethical practices.

CONTACT US

For any inquiry, feedback or comment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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