



**AYR Group Limited  
United Nations Global Compact  
Annual Communication on Progress (COP) 2008 – 2009**

<b>Company name</b>	AYR Group Limited	<b>Date</b>	27.08.09
<b>Address</b>	100 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HP	<b>Membership date</b>	31.07.06
<b>Country</b>	United Kingdom	<b>Number of employees</b>	60
<b>Contact name</b>	Megan Rose	<b>Sector</b>	Aerospace & Aviation
<b>Contact position</b>	Office Administrator		
<b>Contact telephone no.</b>	+44 20 7664 8727		

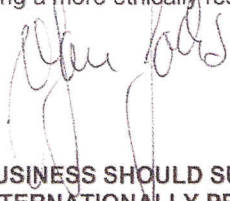
**Brief description of nature of business**

AYR Group Limited owns and operates aircraft for peacekeeping and humanitarian relief missions as well as for commercial charter. We specialise in the operation of heavy-lift helicopters in austere environments, for which we provide flight crew, engineering support and project management. We are currently flying in Nepal, Chad and Afghanistan. Our main clients have included the UN World Food Programme, several non-governmental organisations, and contractors to government agencies. AYR group is a British company in origin but now has satellite offices in Russia, Ukraine and Switzerland, an aircraft base and maintenance facility in the United Arab Emirates, and a US subsidiary company opening within the next few months. Despite our broad range in geographical terms we remain a relatively small organisation with sixty permanent employees.

**Statement of support**

AYR Group Limited is a participant in the UN Global Compact. Created in July 2000 by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the global Compact is a voluntary network of UN agencies, corporations, non-governmental organisations, labour and academic institutions that endorse a shared set of principles on good corporate citizenship. AYR Group Limited is proud to be a UN Global Compact signatory and is committed to advancing the Global Compact's ten principles on human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

AYR Group Limited remains committed in its support for the UN Global Compact principles, which are aligned to its own policies on environmental and social responsibility. By developing our policies in line with these principles, and disseminating them to companies with which we work, we can further the UN's aims of creating a more ethically responsible business community.

**Signature**  **Position** Executive Vice President

**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**

**Our commitment or policy**

Much of AYR Group's work is in support of projects to improve the lives of people living in zones of conflict such as the Chad-Sudan border region. Many of the people living in this area have been subjected to gross human rights abuses and forced to flee their homes. The peacekeeping missions which we have been supporting in this area were put in place to create the security conditions necessary to allow the sustainable and voluntary resettlement of refugees. AYR Group inherently and



necessarily supports the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

We comply with all UK and EU laws, including those relating to human rights. We consider our employees to be our greatest asset and treat them with the respect they deserve. All permanent UK employees are provided with a package of benefits including a pension and healthcare. Although conditions for our employees in the field can at times be difficult, we endeavour to make their living conditions as comfortable and secure as possible.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

In 2009, AYR Group Limited took out a policy for the evacuation of our employees from the field in the case of an emergency situation, further looking after the interests of our team members. An area for improvement during the coming year is greater scrutiny of our suppliers with regard to human rights.

**Measurable results or outcomes**

There have been no incidences of AYR Group Limited being complicit in any abuse of human rights.

**PRINCIPLE 3 BUSINESS SHOULD UPHOLD THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND THE EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group Limited upholds the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. Management engages in open discussion with employees on matters of working conditions.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

All AYR Group employees are free to join trade union bodies. No employee has ever been discriminated against as a result of any associations or beliefs he or she has had.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

None.

**Measurable results or outcomes**

Living conditions in the field have been improved as a result of a report compiled by flight crew and engineers on unsatisfactory conditions relating to the standard of food preparation in their accommodation.

**PRINCIPLE 4 BUSINESS SHOULD SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOUR**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group supports the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

AYR Group does not force employees to work beyond the reasonable working hours described in their contracts of employment, which are in line with employment law in their countries of employment. The working hours of our flight crew are strictly controlled by civil aviation authority rules.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

Improve scrutiny of suppliers with regard to forced and compulsory labour.

**Measurable results or outcomes**

There have been no incidences of compulsory or forced labour within our company.



**PRINCIPLE 5 BUSINESS SHOULD SUPPORT THE EFFECTIVE ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group supports the effective abolition of child labour.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

AYR Group does not and will not employ anyone under the age of 16 in any of our operations, regardless of local laws in the countries in which we operate.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

Check suppliers' adherence to ILO child labour guidelines.

**PRINCIPLE 6 BUSINESS SHOULD SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group Limited supports the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

AYR Group Limited employs a range of men and women across a broad range of ages, from different nations and ethnic backgrounds, and with differing religions and beliefs.

AYR Group supports diversity in its workforce and its associates. In matters of hiring, advancement and remuneration, AYR Group does not discriminate on any criteria other than an individual's experience, performance and skill.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

Publish an equal opportunities policy and a grievances procedure for employees to refer to, should they feel that they have been discriminated against.

**Measurable results or outcomes**

There have been no reports of discrimination in the workplace.

**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**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group Limited is committed to making our operations as environmentally sustainable as possible.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

We strive to maximise the efficiency and lifespan of all our technical equipment, including aircraft parts, through regular maintenance. Parts are refurbished and reused wherever this is possible without compromising on safety and performance. This policy is economically as well as environmentally beneficial.

**Actions implemented in the last year / planned for next year**

AYR Group's London office has recently implemented a recycling policy for all office recyclables. The office purchases post-consumer recycled paper for printing and copying, which is then reused for scrap paper where possible, before being collected for recycling. We source promotional items which



are manufactured using recycled materials where possible.

In the coming year we plan to increase the proportion of products purchased which make use of recycled materials.

**PRINCIPLE 10 BUSINESS SHOULD WORK AGAINST CORRUPTION IN ALL ITS FORMS, INCLUDING EXTORTION AND BRIBERY**

**Our commitment or policy**

AYR Group Limited is committed to working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

**A brief description of our processes or systems**

Unfortunately, corruption is rife in some of the areas in which we operate, particularly among officials such as those in customs. AYR Group will always do its best not to become involved in bribery.

Our own company accounts are submitted annually to independent auditors.

**Measurable results or outcomes**

Our auditors gave the following statement in their summary of our accounts for the financial year 2007-2008, dated 3 April 2009.

"In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 August 2008 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- 
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Report of the Director is consistent with the financial statements"

**How do you intend to make this COP available to your stakeholders?**

AYR Group Limited's Communication on Progress will be made available to interested parties online via:

- the UN Global Compact website – [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org) ; and
- the AYR Group Limited website – [www.AYRgroup.co.uk](http://www.AYRgroup.co.uk) .

It will also be distributed to AYR Group Limited employees and selected clients and suppliers.

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