

# Sedex Communication on Engagement (COE) 2012-14

## Statement from the CEO

Dear Mr Secretary – General,

I am writing to pledge Sedex's continued support for the ten principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) with respect to human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. With this renewed commitment, we express our continued enthusiasm and intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our members, stakeholders and the general public.

As the world's largest collaborative platform for sharing ethical supply chain data across the existing UNGC principles, Sedex is dedicated to driving improvements in responsible and ethical business practices in global supply chains.

We also pledge our continued participation in the activities of the UNGC. Building on the highly successful collaboration between our organisations to date, detailed in our first Communication on Engagement report, Sedex will continue to participate in local networks; specialised initiatives and work streams; partnership projects; and will review and provide commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress. Sedex also believes that this partnership provides further opportunities to support UNGC's objective of reaching 20,000 signatories by 2020 through our supplier-driven model, Self-Assessment Questionnaire alignment and our reporting capacity.

Sedex recognises the vital role that the UNGC plays in advancing sustainable development across the global business community. We share these aims and look forward to continued partnership with the UNGC – and its local networks – to scale up meaningful outreach with business and the international community towards global sustainable development goals.

Sedex's Communication on Engagement (COE) achievements in the years 2012-14 follows.

Yours sincerely,



Carmel Giblin

Chief Executive Officer, Sedex



## Attract new participants to the UN Global Compact through their outreach efforts and awareness raising

### Action

The Global Compact has been exposed to Sedex members and stakeholders via the following high profile Sedex and partner events:

- **Sedex Responsible Sourcing Conference 2014** | In March 2014, Sedex celebrated its 10th anniversary with a series of global supply chain conferences. At our main event in London, the UNGC played a key role, with Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, chair of the UN Foundation, as the keynote and speaker in the *Strength In Numbers: Delivering Global Action for Responsible Supply Chains* panel. In addition, Steve Kenzie, GCLN-UK's Head of Secretariat, chaired the *Multi-tier Supply Chain Transparency* panel at the Sedex Responsible Sourcing Conference 2014. The event was attended by over 450 business leaders and corporate sustainability professionals, with a further online audience of over 100 participants from 40 countries around the world.
- **Joint Sedex and GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) event – Bringing transparency to multi-tier supply chains, December 2013** | Steve Kenzie, Head of Secretariat, GCLN-UK spoke on the panel; *Supply chains as a vehicle for tackling our most pressing sustainability issues*. The event brought together over 150 sustainability experts from across Europe to share latest thinking and discuss best practice around supply chain transparency. Speakers from Sedex, GRI, M&S, Bloomberg, Oxfam and CDP discussed how we can utilise these networks of businesses and people to tackle our unprecedented social and environmental sustainability challenges.
- **Sedex Members' Forum, April 2013** | Attended by over 200 Sedex member companies and stakeholders from around the world – including an additional online audience of over 50 participants – to examine the collaborative impact of responsible

### Outcome

Participation in Sedex events are proving a successful channel for exposure of the UNGC and the 10 principles. Sedex's role as a Non-Business Signatory allows UNGC to reach new industries and stakeholders in Sedex's network.

- In the past two years Sedex and the UNGC have successfully co-hosted nine webinars and five in-person events together. In addition, representatives from the UNGC have spoken at or chaired at least four high profile Sedex events.
- Events have covered a wide range of issues – including human trafficking, corruption, fire safety; regions – including Latin America, China, Africa and South & South-East Asia; and cross-cutting themes – including multi-tier supply chain transparency, organisational structure for sustainability and many more. Events have attracted over 1,600 participants in person and online.
- The events partnership with Sedex provides the UNGC with greater exposure amongst Sedex's community of 36,000+ buyers and suppliers, along with additional engagement and membership recruitment opportunities. There are benefits to Sedex members too as the partnership allows both organisations to scale up their events programme to offer regular supply chain specific events, facilitating opportunities for dialogue and opportunities for greater engagement with Sedex stakeholders, and providing the UNGC with a forum to engage the Sedex membership.
- Films, webinars and videos – including the Responsible Sourcing Insights and recordings from the GCLN and Sedex webinar series – published via Sedex's YouTube Channel have received over 24,000 views since Sedex established the channel in 2013.



## Action

sourcing and how companies and individuals will shape the future. Looking ahead to our ten year anniversary in 2014, the Members' Forum examined the theme of *'Making an impact: Why we do what we do'*. Steve Kenzie, Head of the GCLN-UK's Secretariat spoke alongside Futerra, the Institute of Human Development; GCLN-UK; and Global Strategy Management Technology Co., Limited.

- **Events partnership between GCLN-UK Network and Sedex for joint webinars and events, June 2013** | This partnership has built a more formal and visible output with the UNGC, raising awareness and profile for the UNGC and Sedex in its role as a non-business signatory.
- **Exposure for the Global Compact in the Sedex Responsible Sourcing Insights Films** | In June 2013 Sedex launched Responsible Sourcing Insights – a series of six short films examining key challenges in responsible supply chain management. Each film features interviews with leading multinationals, suppliers, trade bodies, NGOs and other experts – including the GCLN-UK alongside the ETI (Ethical Trading Initiative), SAI Platform, M&S, Sainsbury's and Diageo – to help supply chain professionals navigate this challenging and shifting landscape.
- **Sedex's drinks reception for the 2012 BSR Conference** | Anita Househam, Policy & Legal Adviser, UNGC spoke about the UNGC at Sedex's event in New York, November 2012.

## Outcome

- We have provided the UNGC with regular exposure to Sedex's community of 36,000 buyer and supplier members via news releases and stories published on the Sedex website (100,000 visits per year). In addition, the UNGC is repeatedly profiled via the Sedex Member's Quarterly Newsletter – published in Chinese, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish – and sent to over 100,000 corporate sustainability contacts around the world.
- Regular exposure and promotion of the UNGC promotion via Sedex social media channels (to 3,000+ Twitter, 2,000 LinkedIn and hundreds of Facebook followers.)

“Working in partnership with Sedex has offered the GCLN-UK the opportunity not only to scale up our events schedule, but tapping into Sedex's network and membership has also allowed us to scale our efforts to raise awareness of the UNGC and the 10 principles to reach new industries and regions globally. As a result, we are having more conversations with businesses interested in joining the Global Compact and the partnership continues to attract open dialogue from companies on how they can positively engage and tackle the issues encapsulated within the 10 principles.”

”

Steve Kenzie, Head of Secretariat, GCLN-UK



GCLN-UK at Sedex AGM & Members Forum 2013

## Organise learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UNGC and specific topics relevant to the corporate sustainability

### Action

Over the past two and a half years of our UNGC membership we have developed a regular schedule of supply-chain specific events and webinars to raise awareness of the 10 principles of the UNGC in relation to supply chain, boost exposure of the Global Compact and draw attention to wider issues around corporate responsibility.

#### Past Events:

##### **GCLN-UK & Sedex: Supply Chain Forum - Managing for supply chain sustainability**

Held: 15th October 2014

Central London

[Click for more information](#)

##### **GCLN-U.S. Network & Sedex – Webinar: Introducing the principles of responsible supply chain management**

Held: 1st October 2014

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

##### **GCLN-UK, GCLN-Germany & Sedex: Transparency – the impact of corruption on supply chains**

Held: 9th September 2014

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

##### **GCLN-Chile & Sedex – Webinar: Integrating sustainability into global supply chains**

Held: 14th August 2014

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

##### **GCLN-Turkey & Sedex – Webinar: Introducing Responsible Supply Chain Management**

Held: 29th April 2014

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

### Outcome

Since launch in June 2013, our events partnership with GCLN-UK has expanded to other local networks around the world. In 2014, Sedex has secured partnerships with the Chile, Turkey, Germany and U.S. Local Networks. The events partnership to date have proved incredibly popular, attracted positive feedback, and exceeded our joint expectations for attendance.

#### Key achievements:

- Nine webinars and three in-person events successfully conducted.
- Sedex's events partnership with GCLN-UK was showcased by UNGC HQ as a good practice example of local network engagement in helping companies to develop more sustainable and responsible supply chain practices, in July 2013. This led to the continuation and expansion of the events partnership in 2014 and the development of an events partnership with Turkey, Chile and US, launched in summer 2014.
- UNGC webinars and events to date have been attended by 596 people, 406 of which attended in 2014. On average, 87 people register and 54 attend each event or webinar – an average of 65% of those registering actually attending. (According to feedback from peer organisations, achieving over 20 participants per webinar and over 30% of those registering attending are excellent attendance results for webinars).
- The greatest attendance by region is Europe (70%), followed by North America (21%), Latin America (7%), Asia (5%), and Africa (4%).

## Action

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex: Human Trafficking and Forced Labour – A modern day slavery**

Held: 25th February 2014

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex: Supply Chain Series Event: Enabling Sustainable Practices in Supply Chains**

Held: 11th February 2014

Central London

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex - Supply Chain Series Webinar: Focus on China**

Held: 14th November 2013

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex - Supply Chain Series Webinar: Focus on South America**

Held: 24th October 2013

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex - Supply Chain Series Forum: Enabling Transparency for Sustainable Supply Chains**

Held: 9th October 2013

Central London

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex - Supply Chain Series Webinar: Focus on South & South East Asia**

Held: 9th July 2013

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

### **GCLN-UK & Sedex - Supply Chain Series Webinar: Focus on Africa**

Held: 10th June 2013

Webinar

[Click for more information](#)

## Outcome

- In terms of membership, through the webinars attendees represented 33% UNGC signatories and 31% Sedex members on average – making evident that the webinars are an effective forum for member and non-member outreach.
- By organisation type, we achieved the greatest engagement with Other – which includes academia, consultants and the auditing community - at 52%, followed by Retailers/Brands (21%), NGOs (15%), Suppliers (11%) and Media (1%). The partnership continues to attract increasing participants from supplier, retailer and brand organisations.
- Our September 2014 Corruption webinar was our most popular webinar in the partnership with GCLN-UK to date, with record numbers registering (160) and attending (107); and 72 further views of the recording one month after release.
- In October 2014 GCLN-U.S. and Sedex piloted an introductory webinar in the U.S. This webinar resulted in the most successful webinar yet, with 257 delegates registering and 135 attending. No doubt the exposure of the series with other Global Compact networks has helped to establish a positive reception in the U.S.
- On average, over two-thirds (81%) of attendees state that they would attend another webinar or event by Sedex. A further 19% state that they would attend, depending on the topic.

“Working in procurement often sustainability and ethical sourcing is not high on the agenda with Suppliers. This event broadened my experience in determining another approach in working with Suppliers. Focusing on another area to build stronger long term supplier relationships. Meeting peers in one place an excellent opportunity to take learnings back into our supply chain sustainability strategy.”  
Wasim Mughal, Global Procurement Business Mgr, REXAM PLC. Attended the GCLN-UK & Sedex forum, October 2014

“Speakers, particularly the Sedex and Mars speakers, had a knack for taking a very complicated subject and making it easy to understand. A++.”  
Anon, attended the GCLN-U.S. & Sedex webinar, October 2014

“It was brilliant and spot on in terms of my work. The speakers were excellent.”  
Anon, attended the GCLN-U.S. & Sedex webinar, October 2014



Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, UN Foundation Chair, Sedex Responsible Sourcing Conference 2014



## Provide their expertise and/or the voice of their members to Global Compact working groups and specific initiatives

### Action

Sedex is an active participant in Global Compact working groups, events and activities, regularly contributing expertise on supply chain and responsible sourcing issues. Highlights include:

- **Jo Webb, Head of Stakeholder Relations at Sedex, appointed to the GCLN-UK Board of Directors in June 2014.** A role that supports and provides guidance to the Network Secretariat to meet all statutory obligations.

**Sedex has been a formal member of the UNGC Supply Chain Sustainability Advisory Group since 2011:**

- Sedex regularly attends the in-person meetings of the advisory group, contributing business and supply chain expertise into that forum.
- Sedex also actively contributes into the Supply Chain Sustainability task forces, including the Human Rights, Traceability and Anti-Corruption task forces.

**Sedex sits on the UNGC Anti-Corruption Working Group and has been a member since 2012:**

- Sedex regularly attends the in-person meetings of the working group, contributing business and supply chain expertise into that forum.
- Jo Webb, Head of Stakeholder Relations at Sedex spoke on the Anti-Corruption panel Collective Action in the Fight against Corruption at the UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit, September 2013.

Sedex actively attends UN and Global Compact events, including:

- Attended launch of the UN Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), March 2013.
- Attended the first UN Conference on Business and Human Rights – Geneva, December 2012.

**Sedex engaged members to input into post-2015**

**UN Development agenda, April 2013** | Targets for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) conclude in 2015. MDGs on health, education, advancement of women and on the environment have set the UN's development agenda since 2000. In drawing up the new plan for global priorities post-2015, the UN Secretary General sought input via the UN Global Compact – the only avenue of input devoted to business viewpoints. As a non-business signatory of the UN Global Compact, Sedex were delighted to reach out to members and provide input via the UK Network to help shape these new global priorities.

**Sedex highlighted as an innovative approach to sustainability reporting in GCLN-UK's *Innovations in Sustainability Reporting Compendium*,**

**December 2012** | In response to the Rio +20 Corporate Sustainability Forum in 2012, the GCLN-UK produced this compilation of thought pieces, resources and good practice examples to showcase how UK companies are enhancing the scope, reach and impact of their reporting through innovative approaches.

### Outcome

Sedex actively consults and feeds into the outputs of the Supply Chain Sustainability Advisory Group and task forces.

- Sedex provided a human rights case study and secured case studies from Sedex members on human rights due diligence.
- The UNGC benefits from Sedex's involvement in UNGC activity via regular exposure to Sedex's community of 36,000 buyer and supplier members and wider network of 100,000 corporate sustainability contacts around the world.



## Host the secretariat for a Global Compact Local Network

### Action

#### Hosted the UK launch event of the UN Food and Agriculture Business (FABs) Principles, June 2014

– featuring high profile speakers from the UNGC – Dr Puvan Selvanathan, Director of Sustainable Agriculture – and Jan Kees Vis, Global Sustainable Sourcing Director, Unilever.

#### Sedex host for the GCLN-UK's 4th Quarterly meeting on *Capacity Building and Tools for Sustainable Supply Chains* in October 2012.

### Outcome

Through co-hosting the launch event of the UN Food and Agriculture Business (FABs) Principles, the initiative benefitted from attendance and exposure to Sedex's global network. The event was sold out at 50 attendees.

GCLN-UK's 4th Quarterly meeting on *Capacity Building and Tools for Sustainable Supply Chains* achieved unprecedented attendance for a UK network quarterly meeting with a record 57 attendees. Speakers included BBC Worldwide, WWF (World Wildlife Fund), Transparency International Rio Tinto, Sedex and the ITC (International Trade Centre). The event was a resounding success due to the emphasis on supply chain, prompting an events partnership in 2013.



GCLN-UK at Sedex Responsible Sourcing Conference 2014

## About Sedex's COE Report:

Report covers Sedex's entire period as a Non-Business Signatory, from 2nd April 2012 until 31st October 2014.

### ABOUT SEDEX

## About Sedex

### Sedex Global (sedexglobal.com)

Our mission is to drive collaboration, increase transparency and build the capacity that's needed to raise standards across all tiers of the supply chain. We offer the world's largest collaborative platform for managing and sharing ethical supply chain data, along with leading-edge services which multi-national companies use to understand, monitor and manage supply chains risks and improve standards.

Sedex works to drive engagement up and down the supply chain, encouraging follow up corrective actions on audits and facilitating dialogue to address challenges 'on the ground'. We collaborate with a range of stakeholders to share insights and promote best practice on responsible supply chain issues.

Sedex offers a range of services to enable effective responsible supply chain management. See:

<http://www.sedexglobal.com/member-services/>

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