

30th October, 2015

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon,
Secretary-General
United Nations New York, NY 10017 USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation), Gurgaon, India, supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and, guided by the core values such as integrity, professionalism, excellence and optimism, we showcase our commitment to stakeholders and the general public.

Sehgal Foundation regularly participates in Global Compact Network India (GCNI) monthly meetings, periodically hosts monthly meetings of the GCNI at our office premises, and collaborates on events with GCNI and GCN, such as the Delhi event on September 8, 2015, 'Equality Means Business: Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in Practice'. We share and disseminate information about our Foundation's values and activities at these forums, thereby contributing to the efforts to 'build a movement' through knowledge sharing, cooperation, and meaningful collaboration. We cooperate with GCNI requests for assistance, such as service on a jury for selection of national awardees for a competition in which GCNI is a knowledge and process partner. We share information about GCNI with our networks through social media.

Aligning with our mission, we engage with the member-organizations of the GCNI through collaborations and partnerships to achieve our common objectives. Sehgal Foundation's mission is to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic and environmental change across rural India. With support from our donors and partners in the corporate, government and social sectors, we work with rural communities to increase agricultural productivity, manage water resources, strengthen grassroots democracy and facilitate citizen participation through good rural governance, putting a strong emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

As a civil society organization, we help businesses with whom we partner to advance human rights, protect environment, and advocate good rural governance practices that combat corruption. We support UN Global Compact business participants as they implement and report on their sustainability efforts.

Strong governance at the local level supports sustainable development, and Sehgal Foundation addresses the synergy between the demand and supply aspects of rural

governance at the village level using two strategic initiatives, 'Good Governance Now' and 'Strengthening Village Level Institutions'. These initiatives, rooted in human rights law and a decentralized governance approach to development, take inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Declaration on the Right to Development, and other international standards, and spread awareness of rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and legislation including the Right to Information, Right to Education, and Panchayati Raj Acts. We welcome partnerships to further strengthen good rural governance and also join and support issue platforms and work streams that further social accountability and governance.

One demonstration of our support for public accountability and transparency is our commitment to report on progress every two years according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,



Jane Ellen Schukoske
Chief Executive Officer
S M Sehgal Foundation