



Corporate Social Responsibility Awareness and Advancement Initiative (aka CSR-in-Action)

Communication of Progress 2013 – 2015

31st October, 2015

His Excellency
Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Re: Communication on Engagement

CSR-in-Action signed on to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) in 2010, and in that time we have utilized our expertise as an advocacy and awareness initiative to promote the activities of the UNGC through bespoke programmes. Furthermore, as a membership organisation, we have constantly fostered the Principles of the UNGC in the areas of advisory and support to members of our organisation.

We have a weekly newsletter and news portal through which we disseminate the key messages of the UNGC to ensure that a wider audience – especially an African audience - is reached. As a member of the UNGC and the Nigerian local network, we have a full understanding of the vision and mission of the UNGC, and that is why we were overwhelmingly nominated to be a steering committee member of the local network.

We, therefore, use this medium to restate our commitment to the UNGC through continued research, advocacy and awareness, to ensure that this new phase of global sustainable development is actively pursued not only by organisations within our constituency but also members of the public.

Yours sincerely,

Bekeme Masade
Executive Director

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1 Background of CSR-in-Action

CSR-in-Action was established as Corporate Social Responsibility Awareness and Advancement Initiative in 2010. It is the foremost independent ethical action network, one-stop-shop partner for collective social responsibility and corporate governance in West Africa with over 20 member-organisations from the business and civil societies. Our mission to “redefine the sustainability terrain in Africa, through collaborative strategies with stakeholders aimed at attaining higher levels of corporate governance, workplace and sustainable philanthropy.

CSR-in-Action has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), is the first private sector member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Nigeria, is a Global Reporting Initiative Certified Training Partner and is the first wholly Nigerian company to become an Assurance Partner of the Accountability AA1000AS.

In a bid to achieve our vision, CSR-in-Action engages in good governance advocacy, collection action advocacy and corporate sustainability advocacy.

CSR-in-Action joined the UNGC in 2010.

2 Our Partner Organisations

2.1 College of Sustainable Citizenship (CSC)

To further the achievement of our mission, the College of Sustainable Citizenship was established in 2015 to further the training drive and achievement of the CSR-in-Action mission through capacity building activities. The CSC was established to empower a visionary caste of global citizens through insightful, inspiring and progressive training focused on corporate sustainability and corporate social responsibility for corporate and non-profit organisations. CSR-in-Action is a GRI Certified Training Partner.

2.2 CSR-in-Action Consulting

CSR-in-Action Consulting supports organisations in their sustainability drive through support in development and implementation of sustainability strategies, needs and impact analyses, project conceptualization and implementation, drafting of GRI Certified Sustainability Reports and provision of non-financial assurance services using the AA1000 Assurance Standard.

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3 Engagement with UNGC Local Network

CSR-in-Action actively participates in the activities of the Nigeria UNGC Local Network. In 2015, we were nominated to be part of the Steering Committee, comprised of seven business organisations and three non-profit organisations. Our participation was further deepened since our appointment to the Human Rights sub-committee of the UNGC Steering Committee. We remain resolute in our commitment to support the growth of the local network, adoption of sustainable business practices and reporting in Nigeria.

4 Actions to Support the Global Compact and to Engage with the Initiative:

We have flagship initiatives that cover all areas of the 10 Principles.

4.1 The Collective Social Investment Report (CSIR)

In 2012, CiA released the country's first collective social investment report – an assessment of company's sustainability performance. Our annual CSR report is a high quality first ever widely disseminated and inclusive compendium which covers all CSR activities all over Nigeria in the past years from indigenous businesses, to multinationals, governments and multi-lateral partnerships and is modelled after international reports on sustainable investment.

The 2012 report covered subjects like Private Sector CSR; Public/Private Partnerships; CSR Associations, Federations, and Global Alliance Programs; Foundations; Other CSR Initiatives & Organizations, Case Studies, a Glossary as well as provided a comprehensive list of featured organisations in the compendium for ease of access.

The scope of the CSI report was increased in 2013 edition of the report where CSR-in-Action reviewed the workplace policies and practices, community development activities and approach to environmental sustainability of companies in Nigeria in line with their adherence to the UNGC principles and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 2013 report can be found **here**.

CSR-in-Action has partnered with Accenture and Ernst & Young in Nigeria for the development of the 2014 edition of the CSI Report and the 3C-Index (please see below). Progress is underway and the much anticipated report shall be published in November 2014.

4.2 CSR-in-Action Corporate Citizenship Index (3C-Index)

In 2013, CSR-in-Action introduced the Nigeria's first competitive index on corporate social responsibility, the CSR-in-Action Corporate Citizenship Index (3C-Index). Built on the back of the CSI Report, the 3C-Index was developed to institute a peer-based performance evaluation mechanism that motivates organizations in Nigeria (and West Africa) to improve on their sustainability practices and reporting standards in line with globally accepted principles.

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A total of 117 private sector companies from all over Nigeria were researched, analysed and ranked, and broadly grouped under the different industry categories, from Automotive and Transportation to Business Services, Manufacturing, Construction, Education, Energy, Financial Services, FMCG, Media, Pharmaceuticals and Telecommunications. Through this approach, we tried to capture all aspects of a company's footprint in relation to its stakeholders, and its policies and strategies to balance people, profits and planet concept.

4.3 Sustainability in the Extractive Industries (SITEI) Conference:

The Sustainability in the Extractive Industries (SITEI) Conference is an annual flagship conference that brings together key stakeholders to discuss critical issues in the industries and stimulate meaningful exchange of ideas and best practices among key stakeholder groups and industry experts. The objectives of the conference are to identify effective strategies for improved development within the industries and local communities.

Discussions at SITEI encompass all 4 pillars of the UNGC:

The maiden edition of the conference in 2012, focused primarily on environmental sustainability, was co-organised with the Deputy High Commission of Canada (DHCC), and had leading speakers and participants from Canada, Nigeria and other parts of Africa.

SITEI 2013, themed 'Policy, Affirmative Action and Sustained Growth' and organised in partnership with the Nigerian Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the conference focused primarily on transparency and accountability. SITEI 2013 was headlined by a Co-Founder of Transparency International.

In partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, SITEI 2014 brought Human Rights and Labour practices to the spotlight with the theme "Local Content Participation, Accountability and Transparency". The conference provided a platform for key stakeholders to proffer solutions for the involvement of Nigerians in the oil and gas sector which is often reported to be culpable for human rights violations.

4.4 Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Sustainability Reporting

Our certified trainings in the GRI sustainability reporting framework raise the awareness of key sustainability issues while also developing the capacity of companies to report on their advances and achievements in their sustainability drive. As a GRI certified training partner, we train our clients on the GRI G4 framework which offers an integrated approach to reporting on other sustainability reporting frameworks including the UNGC Communication of Progress. Over the reporting period, we trained a wide audience including oil and gas, media, manufacturing and other consulting firms.

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4.5 School of Sustainable Citizenship

Other training initiatives engaged in by CSR-in-Action build the capacity of our clients to improve their adoption of the UNGC principles. Our dedicated training arm offers training in a wide variety of CSR focused courses such as Making CSR work, Stakeholder Engagement, Security and Social Responsibility and Effective Community Engagement which aid our clients in implementing social and environmental policies and interventions.

We also have been involved in initiatives targeted at specific principles of the UNGC.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS

5.1 UNGC Steering Committee

CSR-in-Action promotes the development of a principled approach to human rights in Corporates through our role in the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the UNGC Local Network. Roles assigned to the sub-committee include development of human rights best practice policies for members of the UNGC Local Network in Nigeria.

6 LABOUR

6.1 Child Labour Eradication

CSR-in-Action supported British American Tobacco Nigeria (BATN) in its drive to abolish child labour among farmers in its outgrower scheme. Under this engagement, CSR-in-Action engaged farmers directly, teaching about the demerits of child labour to children, farmers and BATN, and the benefits of education for children.

To measure the impact of our child labour intervention, we conducted a spot check on a sample size of the farms under the outgrower scheme in 2015.

6.2 Oando Foundation

In January 2015, we supported Oando Foundation by providing matchmaking services for implementation partners for the Foundation's flagship programme, the Adopt-A-School Initiative (AASI).

Oando Foundation provides access to basic education for children by addressing issues of universality, equity, quality education and supporting infrastructural development through AASI which is anchored on MDG Goal 2, Achieve Universal Primary Education. In supporting access to education through school infrastructure development, teacher training, early childhood care and development, girl child education and provision of scholarships, Oando Foundation effectively reduces the incidence of child labour.

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7 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SITEI

Please see 4.3 above.

7.1 Bacardi

In a bid to promote environmental sustainability by undertaking initiatives to promote environmental responsibility, CSR-in-Action supported Bacardi Nigeria in the implementation of a campaign promoting sustainable reuse and disposal of bottles distributed under the brand in Nigeria. Under this initiative, CSR-in-Action developed and distributed bins, and implemented a publicity campaign for source separation of waste glass bottles for recycle and reuse.

8 ANTI-CORRUPTION

8.1 Anti-Corruption Report

In 2013, we developed '*A Report on Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Efforts in Nigeria*', which was published by the UNGC local network and the Nigerian Economic Group. The report revealed the levels of adoption of anti-corruption policies and practices of 11 company members of the UNGC Local Network in Nigeria.

8.2 Building My Dream Nigeria

At a time when Nigeria was internationally reputed corruption and internet fraud, CSR-in-Action supported the message of transparency and accountability by seeking partners for publishing and dissemination of the book, "Building My Dream Nigeria", written by 2 Nigerian youth; a book that directly addresses what school children aged 7 - 13 can do to make Nigeria not only a better place to live in but to be a world-class nation; a standard for the rest of the world to emulate.

Through our efforts in 2013, a total of 1000 copies of the book were provided cost free to schools and libraries across Nigeria, sponsored by Mobil Producing Nigeria.

8.3 Good Citizen Initiative

Our flagship advocacy project for patriotism, anti-corruption, unity, accountability and unity was launched in 2015. Through the Good Citizenship Initiative, we advocate for collective action as a strategic response to an apparent dearth of responsible citizenship in Nigeria. With a vision of 'One Nigeria', we are making the necessary effort to promote positive values and good neighbourliness amongst Nigerians through various education and awareness creation.

For more information about CSR-in-Action, please visit www.csr-in-action.org, www.sitei.org or call 08076884871, 08176682287, or 08176682294.

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