



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

STIFTELSEN GLOBAL CHILD FORUM

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 31 OCTOBER, 2013

To: 31 OCTOBER 2015

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

29 January, 2016

To the Global Child Forum stakeholders and partners:

I am pleased to confirm that Stiftelsen Global Child Forum reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Åse Bäckström
Managing Director

Part II. Description of Actions

Background

Stiftelsen Global Child Forum is an independent, global multi-stakeholder platform for informed dialogue and thought leadership on how to advance children's rights in support of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Global Child Forum aims at gathering leaders from business, governments, academia and civil society in a joint effort to implement children's rights. This multi-stakeholder approach should be supported by effective information sharing, exposing leading case studies and learning from best practice from all parts of the world.

Global Child Forum is best known for its annual leaders' summit at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting brings together some 400 leaders from large and small international corporations, financial institutions, the UN and NGOs, government representatives, academia, selected experts and journalists, to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing the children of the world. The objective is to expose best practice and examples, new innovative ways of implementing and scaling up successful methods of multi-stakeholder cooperation leading to action and tangible results for children. The Global Child Forum also convenes a regional, thematic and/or industry specific Forum each year in Latin America, Africa, Middle East or Asia.

In addition to being a global platform for dialogue and action, the Global Child Forum initiates, coordinates and produces studies and analysis. We also engage our partner, academic and expert networks in sector specific initiatives related to children's rights.

The Global Child Forum Web Portal is an online interactive platform for sharing information, inspiration, best practice and knowledge on important children's rights issues. Global Child Forum was initiated by the Swedish Royal family in 2009. The Global Child Forum is a Swedish non-profit foundation with headquarters in Stockholm, focusing on the intersection of children's rights and business.

Global Child Forum is a non-business, non-profit foundation active as a platform within areas as research (academic), business and civil society. This means that the organisation cannot be classified as an academic, business or civil society organisation only, but as a mixture. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child most activities undertaken by Global Child Forum do have a direct impact on the fulfilment of the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact.

Activities and actions 2013-2015

Activities and actions performed during the period are listed under the headings Academic, Business and Civil Society – the type of organizational categories most similar to our organization.

Academic:

During 2013 and 2014, we presented four well-received research studies focusing on the corporate- and investor sector and Children's Rights (for example connected to principle 1, 2, 4, 5 and others). Research launched is found here:

- http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/BCG_Global-CEO-Study-on-Childrens-Rights-2013.pdf
- http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF_GES_OK.pdf
- http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF_BCG_OK_WEBB_201408.pdf
- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GCF-forskarrapport-web.pdf>

During 2015 until October 31, we presented two additional well-received research studies on the corporate- and investor sector together with additional deep-dives describing how South-African based companies are working in the intersection between Children's rights and business performance:

Research reports:

- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/GCF-GES-Report-2015.pdf>
- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF-BCG-Report-2015.pdf>

Deep dives:

- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF-BCG-DeepDives-BNP.pdf>
- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF-BCG-DeepDives-Millicom.pdf>
- <http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GCF-BCG-DeepDives-PickNPay.pdf>

We believe the above actions has supported many of the requested actions, for example:

- Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact.
- Disseminate the Global Compact Principles.

Business Association:

During the period we initiated a partnership with UNICEF to jointly develop a Children's Rights & Business Atlas, to be launched as an interactive web based free source of information, during 2015.

In April 2014, a Global Child Forum with more than 400 stakeholders from governments, academia, business and civil society was held at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. The theme was Partnerships for Children's Rights and key note speakers were Roberto Azevedo, from the World Trade Organization and Navanethem Pillay, UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Please read the Forum report: http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/GCF_Forumrapport_OK.pdf.

In November 2014, the first Regional Child Forum for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This first regional forum in the MENA made an enormous impact among regional and local politicians, industry, civil society, academia and the media actors. A total of 450 regional stakeholders from governments, academia, business and civil society covering 22 countries in the Middle East and North African participated in our four interactive action labs which were a key component of the forum. It was the very first time that Salil Shetty, the Secretary General of the human rights organization Amnesty International was speaking publicly in the region and the very first time as a topic like Children's Rights and business was discussed within the regional context.

Please read the Forum report: http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Forumrapport_v12.pdf.

In September 2015, the Global Child Forum on Southern Africa was held in Pretoria, South Africa with more than 300 regional stakeholders from governments, academia, business and civil society participating. The forum was held together with the African Child Policy Forum and the National Business Initiative, the latter as well the host for the local Global Compact Network. Honorary Patrons and Key Note speakers were Mrs Graca Machel, Princess Sofia of Sweden and H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

Please read the Forum report: http://globalchildforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/GCF_Pretoria_original_enkelsidor.pdf.

We believe the above actions has supported many of the requested actions, for example:

- Attract new participants to the UN Global Compact through their outreach efforts and awareness raising
- Organize learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability
- Provide expertise and/or the voice to Global Compact working groups and special initiatives

Civil Society:

The partnership with UNICEF to jointly develop a Children's Rights & Business Atlas, to be launched as an interactive web based free source of information, late 2015 is one example of those partnerships developed with the specific purpose to help business assess and gauge their impact on children's rights. The Atlas has been developed together with UNICEF but is also the outcome of many years of engagement with companies and other civil society organizations with the purpose to support business to be able to protect and support children's rights.

We believe the above actions has supported many of the requested actions, for example:

- Engage with Global Compact Local Networks
- Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability
- Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues
- Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

The purpose of the Global Child Forum is to deliver a global platform for informed dialogue and partnerships between different sectors of society; we also aim to inspire cross sector action on children's rights. The outcomes of our activities are believed to be long-term and are not fully possible to measure already now.

Examples of outcomes from the activities described above are:

- Benchmarking studies and Investor studies are used to measure performance over time with regards to how corporates and investors include children's rights as part of business. Follow-up and measurement of development over the first period of three years is planned for 2017.
- Indicators used in the benchmarking studies are slowly integrated into corporate activities and actions.
- Outcome of global and regional benchmarking studies are quoted in regional and national media, thus having a long-term impact on corporate performance.

The outcome for awareness raising by the regional Forum in Dubai can be measured by the fact that more than 80 news articles were published in the leading media of the region, including a deep-interview with Queen Silvia of Sweden on Global Child Forum and our activities in the TV-channel Al-Arabiya. Our message is estimated to have reached more than 13 million people in the region.

The outcome of the regional Forum in Pretoria is also measured by an increased focus on the importance of education and training in the region. This message was also clear in a news-clip on the TV-channel CCTV Africa. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QedCt0tEVrA&feature=youtu.be>)

In order to be able to follow up the outcome of the two regional forums performed during the reporting period Global Child Forums has received external founding from Svenska PostkodStiftelsen. The aim is to follow-up outcomes of those partnerships created cross-sectorial as a result of the regional forums. Final reporting is due in the middle of 2017.