

Ms. Lise Kingo  
Relationship Manager  
UN Global Compact  
685 Third Avenue,  
FL 12, New York  
NY-100017

02 February, 2016

Dear Ms. Kingo,

**Re: Development Reality Institute: Communication On Engagement**

Warm greetings from Development Reality Institute.

DRI endorses UNGC's Principle 7 and 8 which states that: "Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges"; and "should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility" respectively. Keeping in tandem with these Principles, DRI is working to capacitate private businesses on sound environmental business ethics, creating awareness among citizens about climate change and sustainable development goals (SDGs) using ICT4D.

Development Reality Institute is an active participant of the UNGC. We are pleased to submit our biennial report in line with UNGC's content for non-business participants submit the Communication on Engagement (COE) report in every two years commencing 31st October 2013. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we have described the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles 7 and 8 as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Kind regards,

Verengai Mabika



## **Executive Director**

### **About Development Reality Institute**

Development Reality Institute (DRI) is a Zimbabwean youth oriented organization that envisions a society where there is sustainable use of natural resources and adaptation to climate change. DRI's mission is to mitigate and build society's adaptive capacity to the effects of climate change and this is achieved through capacity strengthening, policy analysis, knowledge management and programme interventions using cutting edge ICT solutions.

DRI is currently working on five projects which are in tandem with UNGC's principles, namely:

- Climate Change Virtual School (CCVS);
- SDGs Virtual Learning Centre (SDGs-VLC);
- SDGsZim Mobile Application;
- Smarter Harare through Participatory E-inclusion (SHAPE);
- Green Innovations HUB (GiHUB).

**Climate Change Virtual School (CCVS):** This is dynamic and dedicated e-learning platform offering a wide range of courses to on climate change and development. Participants can enroll for various courses ranging from Climate Change and Business to Mainstreaming Climate Change in Development Planning and Implementation. The courses are meant to strengthen capacity of policy makers, business community, development planners, and community members, among others on the need to be environmentally conscious in carrying out their activities. Since its inception in 2010, the school has enrolled more than 5,000 students from 32 African Countries.



**SDGs Virtual Learning Centre (SDGs-VLC):** Its an online platform where participants can enroll for a FREE course on Understanding the Basics of SDGs. The course is meant to capacitate the community on how best to implement as well as to raise awareness on SDGs. Since its inception as the MDGs-VLC, the school has enrolled more than 12,500 students from Zimbabwe.



## The MDGs App

**SDGsZim Mobile Application:** It's a tailor made mobile application for the Zimbabwean community where they can follow, share, and discuss issues to do with SDGs in Zimbabwe vis-à-vis the global community. The application enables users to share text, pictures, and videos that have a story to do with SDGs. The aim is to raise awareness on SDGs. More than 45,000 people are actively on the application.

**Green Innovation Hub (GiHUB):** Is an incubation space which seeks to ignite social change and unlock the potential of young people in contributing to sustainable development through novel ideas around smart energy. The purpose of the GiHUB is to facilitate the transformation of promising ideas into practical solutions that address real environmental and social challenges faced by local communities.



[www.gih.space](http://www.gih.space)

[@gihubzw](https://twitter.com/gihubzw)

[f Green Innovations Hub](https://www.facebook.com/GreenInnovationsHub)

**Smarter Harare through Participatory E-inclusion (SHAPE):** Is an online platform where Harare residents engage in real-time with their municipality discussing issues to do with urban planning and management, the idea being to promote resident participation thus ensuring transparency and economic justice in the utilization of financial resources for improved service delivery.

