



**Communication on Engagement (COE)**

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Period covered by this Communication of Engagement:

From: June, 2015

To: June, 2016

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**Statement of Continued Support**

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The Africa-America Institute (AAI) is pleased to express its continued support of 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 advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact in ways including but not limited to the following: engaging with Global Compact local networks; joining partnership projects with other stakeholders as well as events and special initiatives to support development objectives in line with the Global Compact and our mission; and encouraging our existing international partners to join partnership projects on Global Compact-related issues.

In this Communication of Engagement, we report on the actions and activities that AAI has taken and implemented in order to uphold the UN Global Compact and its Principles. AAI supports public accountability and transparency, and therefore welcomes stakeholders' review of our periodic report.

Sincerely,

Mikako Tai

Corporate Affairs Officer

## Description of Actions and Activities in Support of the UN Global Compact and its Principles

AAI joined the UN Global Compact in 2014 and has since then been actively working to implement its Principles and ideals by advancing its institutional mission. AAI has been successful in taking the following practical actions to engage with the initiative:

- Engaging with Global Compact local networks;
- Joining and proposing partnership projects on corporate sustainability;
- Engaging companies in Global Compact-related issues; and
- Participating in Global Compact global, and local events.

Here are some notable activities and accomplishments that support the values of the UN Global Compact:

- AAI successfully executed the **Second Annual State of Education in Africa Conference** in September 2015 in Lagos, Nigeria. The event was co-hosted by the World Bank and Ford Foundation. Involving policymakers, educators, administrators, and donors/funders, AAI had a solution-driven conversation on the challenges and opportunities in education and capacity-building in Africa. Full outcomes report can be found here: <http://www.aaionline.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/AAI-SOE-Outcomes-Report-2015-final.pdf>
- AAI has established a **Sector Advisory Committee** consisting of representatives from various industries and sectors (i.e. education, ICT, healthcare, energy, infrastructure, etc) who advise AAI on select topics and issues from the local, African perspectives. The insights gathered from the advisory committee members help AAI develop programs that address relevant, timely, and critical issues facing the African communities and the peoples.
- AAI has launched and provided scholarships to African students through its **Future Leaders Legacy Fund**. AAI has partnered with three African universities: Ashesi University in Ghana, United States International University in Kenya, and UNISA in South Africa. Through the Legacy Fund, AAI provides full scholarships to smart yet under-resourced African students to obtain a bachelor's degree at a high-performing African university. The Legacy Fund serves as a tool for corporate donors to educate the citizens and empower the communities in which they operate. At present, 7 full scholarships for a bachelor's degree have been funded.
- AAI has established a partnership with the **East African Development Bank (EADB)** and launched a scholarship program to train teachers and lecturers in the STEM field in East Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda). Beginning in September of 2016, the AAI-EADB STEM program scholars will attend either Rutgers University, NJ or the

New Jersey Institute of Technology to obtain a Master's degree in science, technology, engineering or math.

- AAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of South Africa (UNISA) on the U.S. **Young African Leadership Initiative's Regional Leadership Centers** initiative. AAI is collaborating with UNISA to curate programs and convening activities that will train African leaders in entrepreneurship, business management, and public administration.
- March 2016: AAI President and CEO, Development & Strategy Officer, and Corporate Affairs Officer participated in the Global Compact local New York City event on corporate philanthropy and CSR, co-hosted by Pfizer, etc.
- April 2016: AAI hosted a successful **Conversations on Africa: Setting U.S. Policy in Africa for the Next U.S. Administration** highlighting the remaining *and* future/recommended priorities of the U.S. government around promoting education and training in Africa.