

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

08-08-2016

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that the CSR Centre upholds all the ten principles of the Global Compact and believes that these Principles can and will promote the critical issues in regards to Labour Standards, Human Rights, Environment and Anti-corruption.

The CSR Centre has been engaged in the promotion and outreach of the UNGC Principles in policies, strategies and practices. It has been working towards a multi-stakeholder approach to consistently engage in both program/projects and capacity building initiatives to advance the MDGs and now SGDs at national, regional and global context as well as launching of UNGC interventions in the country.

We believe that these issues are to be a continuous process of engagement and outreach, with this the CSR Centre submits its COE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahamin S. Zaman'.

Sincerely
Shahamin S. Zaman
CEO, CSR Centre

About the CSR Centre



The CSR Centre is an independent entity established on September 5, 2007 to encourage and expand CSR practices in Bangladesh. Among the thousands of definitions of CSR used around the world, CSR Centre believes that CSR is a set of business practices based on ethical norms and transparency that contributes to the sustainable development of both internal and external stakeholders in the best interest of the business, society and the environment. The Centre provides CSR services and consultancy as well as advisory services. The primary objective of the Centre is to become the prime source of information, resources and advisory services on CSR in Bangladesh, and the operational principle is to contribute to achieving the Post Millennium Development Goals - SDGs in Bangladesh through private sector led growth.

The CSR Centre is the focal point for the Global Compact Network (GCN) in Bangladesh and is the principle promoter of GCN in Bangladesh. It provides a platform for participating companies and non-business stakeholders to advance the UN Global Compact and its Principles at the local level. The CSR Centre hosted the Sixth United Nations Global Compact Local Network Exchange Program 2014 and the Global Compact Local networks Regional Meeting Asia/Oceania 2014. As a Focal Point it also participated in several UN Global Compact Webinar to make global goals local business.

Mission

To be the innovators of change through CSR.

Vision

The CSR Centre's vision is ***to be the catalyst for change by engaging public, private and development sectors towards promoting responsible business practices through innovative CSR approaches which emphasizes on global CSR agenda within national priorities.***

Key Activities and Services

- Launch of all UNGC Principles.
- Advice companies on CSR strategy development, partnerships and project management-the Centre assists companies through in-depth consultation to develop a concise roadmap for sustainable development.
- Participate in forums to engage stakeholders to advocate responsible business- the Centre engages in various seminars and workshops.
- Promote UNGC membership and provide advisory services to members.
- Provide training and facilitate workshops on topics of CSR and UNGC Principles to build private sector capacity.

Human Rights

- Principle 1: Support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

The CSR Centre is committed to follow International Human Rights Conventions, laws and best practices. It provides a platform for partner companies and non-business stakeholders to advance the Human Rights Principles at the local level.

Implementations:

- Launch of Child Rights and Business Principles- CRBP.
- CSR Centre finalized the “National CSR policy on Children” which is based on CRBP.
- Launch of Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) & published a directory titled “WIN-Women in Need”.
- The CSR Centre implemented the Project titled “Safe Workplace through Gender Equality and Anti-sexual Harassment in Bangladeshi RMG Factories” in partnership with TwentyFifty Ltd. N.Brown Group & UK Aid. The objective of this Project is to enable gender equality and anti-sexual harassment in Bangladeshi RMG factories, which is expected to provide better growth opportunities and working conditions for female workers.
- Workshops on CSR & Women Empowerment Principles.
- Training on Economic Empowerment & Employment Generation through CSR.
- Organized the event “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” in collaboration with Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), IFC & UNGC (WEPs) to celebrate the International Women's Day.

Labour Standards

- Principle 3: the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.

The CSR Centre respects and supports UNGC Principles on Labour Standards and incorporates these into policy and strategy. They comply with the Labour Laws of Bangladesh and other related international laws and standards.

Implementation:

- The CSR Centre as the Service Provider in Bangladesh for BSCI, FTA (Foreign Trade Association) conducted an introductory training titled as “Getting Started with BSCI” and an advanced training titled as “Decent working Hours and Fair Remuneration” “Health & Safety Management” “Drafting a Remediation Plan” “Introduction to Social Management System” for the RMG sector in Bangladesh. The main objective of the trainings were to introduce the new BSCI Code of Conduct, Audit Procedure (compliance and non-compliance issues), relevant policies of Bangladesh and global which also included the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- The CSR Centre in partnership with MADE – BY Label UK Limited, working on a project titled “KiK Suppliers Social Improvement Programme Implementation”. The objective of the project is to support the factories to improve their social and environmental performance and thereby enhance their business competitiveness by uplifting labour relationships.

Environment

- Principle 7: support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The CSR Centre is very much committed and respectful towards the Environmental Principles of the UNGC. They help the companies to incorporate the environmental code of conducts in its policy and practices.

Implementation:

- Workshop on "Humanitarian Actions & Standards for Private Sector" together with Oxfam & Institute of Disaster Management & Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS).
- Introducing BEPI (Business Environmental Performance Initiatives) principles for RMG sector in Bangladesh.

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The CSR Centre understand the significance of anti-corruption and provide the GCN Bangladesh member organizations and other stakeholders a platform for sharing knowledge ,dialogue, actions and encouraging them to implement the Principle.

Implementation:

- CSR Centre finalizes the “National CSR Guideline for Bangladesh” which is based on UNGC Principles.
- Training on Sustainability Reporting as per GRI G4 Guideline for greater transparency and accountability.