

Communication on Engagement – UN Global Compact

Statement by the chief executive:

"I hereby state that the Bellona Foundation supports the 10 principles underpinning the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We pledge to advance these principles within our organization, in all countries we operate, as well as all our partners and the public in general." - Frederic Hauge, president and founder of The Bellona Foundation

About The Bellona Foundation

The Bellona Foundation was founded in 1986. We are currently 45 employees, working at the main office in Oslo and our three international offices in Brussels (Belgium / EU) Murmansk (Russia) and St. Petersburg (Russia). We have websites in [Norwegian](#), [English](#) and [Russian](#).

Our area of expertise is broad, and the staff is comprised of individuals with extensive professional background. With 30 years of experience, we have established a unique network both nationally and internationally. Our work has gained international attention within several disciplines, and Bellona's advisors are frequently sources and experts on climate change issues both in national and international press.

What we are working with?

- [Nuclear Issues](#)
- [Fossil fuels](#)
- [Russian human rights issues](#)
- [Arctic](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [CCS](#)
- [Renewable Energy](#)
- [Energy Efficiency](#)

Who we are working with?

Pollution knows no borders, thus Bellona is working with and against anyone and everyone relevant to our work, both nationally and internationally. This can be anyone from politicians, bureaucrats within ministries and agencies, decision-makers in business, media, other non-profit organizations and foundations, to participants in research and education.

Bellona has a solution-oriented approach to the environmental challenges and we have since 1998 had extensive cooperation with a number of companies in different industries and businesses. Our approach is that to achieve results one must jointly work out the best social and environmental solutions, and making these financially profitable/ viable.

Thus the partners we aim to work with in our partnership programs are companies that are strategically placed in relation to (Norwegian) industries. The partners can be as much a part of the solution as the problem, but are important allies in political processes; they have the necessary expertise and knowledge in their field, and commonly share the willingness to position themselves as pioneers that identifies and demonstrates new solutions.

However, Bellona is and has always been an independent watch dog that investigates, scrutinizes and reports any kind of environmental crime we might uncover.

The UN Global Compact principles are important guidelines which Bellona strives to make sure that all our partners and allies follow, at all times.

Below follow some examples of how our activities promote the UN Global Compact principles:

Working for Human Rights: *Projects in Russia*

The Bellona Foundation has been active in several locations in Russia for more than two decades. Back in 1996, Russian submarine captain Aleksander Nikitin was arrested for his contribution to a chapter on Soviet and Russia nuclear submarine accidents and radiation levels in a Bellona report called “The Russian Northern Fleet: Sources of Radioactive Contamination.”

In September 2000, after five years of fighting for justice, including 80 hearings in lower courts, all charges were dropped, making Nikitin the only person in the history of the USSR and Russia to have won a case against the FSB/KGB system. To this day, Aleksander Nikitin works in Bellona’s headquarters in Oslo, and is a living proof of the difficulties Bellona and other organizations face in Russia. More on the Nikitin case can be found [here](#).

Today, our office in Saint Petersburg, the Environmental and Human Rights Center (ERC), works actively to inform citizens about their rights, with special focus on environmental issues. Our lawyers provide free legal aid to approximately 200 environmental activists in Russia every year.

In 2015 we witnessed our office in Murmansk being victim of a witch hunt on NGOs, carried out by Russian authorities, in order to limit the public’s access to information and restrain all international interference. Bellona Murmansk was labelled a “foreign agent” organization, and in October 2015, the office had to close down, when it faced mounting fines for engaging in political activity, primarily the distribution of a [report on industrial pollution](#) in Russia’s northwest – a report the group had no hand in writing.

Today, former employees of the Bellona Murmansk office continue their efforts to inform the public and change environmental policy in Russia, through ERC in Saint Petersburg.

More on Bellona’s work with Russian human rights issues can be found [here](#).

In addition to our dedicated human rights projects; Bellona engages in a variety of cases where the public is somehow held hostage in governments’ or companies’ destructive treatment of natural resources. We function as a watchdog shedding light on environmental wrongdoings, big or small, nationally and internationally.

Fighting Forced Labour and Discrimination in South-East Asia: *Shipbreaking*

For over a decade, Bellona has been part of the international network, [NGO Shipbreaking Platform](#), which aims to stop ship owners’ practice with scrapping of ships on beaches in South-East Asia. This shady business has revealed to involve exploitation of workers forced to manual labour, without any form of protection or adequate equipment, on the dismantling of shipwrecks, filled with toxic chemicals and waste. It is thus highly damaging to the environment as well as to local labour force. Bellona has, through media attention and through the NGO Shipbreaking platform, managed to dramatically decrease the number of Norwegian ships scrapped on beaches; In August 2015, Norway became the first country in the world to officially discourage ship-owners to scrap ships on beaches.

We continue our efforts to end hazardous shipbreaking, amongst others; through our role as observer in the [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#).

More on Bellona's work on shipbreaking can be found [here](#).

From Pollution to Solution: *Bellona's 30 years of Environmental Action*

For the last 30 years Bellona has been working with environmental issues, not only by pointing out challenges, but identifying and developing solutions, together with our business partners. Here are some examples of the concrete action Bellona is taking to tackle climate change and environmental challenges:

Sahara Forest Project

The [Sahara Forest Project](#) is an innovative environmental solution to create Restorative Growth: "Revegetation and creation of green jobs through profitable production of food, freshwater, biofuels and electricity". In other words: A business-case that is good for the environment, good for people and with long term economic viability. The Sahara Forest Project is aiming for a triple bottom-line.

The production of key resources, such as clean water, clean energy and a sustainable production of food represents some of our time's greatest challenges. Sahara Forest Project offers commercial opportunities for renewable energy production and agricultural production in low lying desert areas. Bellona is both a co-founder of Sahara Forest Project Foundation and shareholder in Sahara Forest Project AS.

The Sahara Forest Project Foundation sets out to facilitate and promote research, knowledge and the use of technologies, which enable revegetation and the creation of new jobs through the profitable production of food, water, biomass and electricity. The purpose of the company is to create profitable innovation and environmental solutions within the food, water and energy sector. This is achieved by bringing The Sahara Forest Project technology to the market in relevant countries.

Ocean Forest

Leroy Seafood Group and the Bellona Foundation have joined forces to form the company Ocean Forest. The goal of Ocean Forest is to establish new forms of biomass production linked to aquaculture.

Ocean Forest cooperates with various research and technology communities and develops solutions that reduce costs for sustainable biomass production in the ocean. The company will develop products for food, feed, energy and raw materials for industry and agriculture. Ocean Forest works under strict sustainability criteria to develop restorative solutions.

Ocean Forest has a vision of large-scale sustainable production of biomass and energy along the Norwegian coast. Today, only 2 % of the world's food comes from the ocean, measured in energy consumption, according to Seaweed Energy Solutions. In 2014, for the first time, more fish were farmed for human consumption than were caught in the wild.

This production has to become more sustainable, in order to compensate for the diminishing potential in land farming, with a rapidly increasing population worldwide.

Ocean Forest seeks to establish itself as a world-leading company in research on synergies between integrated solutions. The results will be used to prepare a business concept for commercial deployment of new solutions for biomass production on a large scale. This will be achieved by integrating a range of technological solutions and unique ecological cycles. In the sea interactions between a number of species and the environment they live in develop naturally. The results are harvested in the form of higher output and a better environment.

Seaweeds – also called macro algae – can be grown on a large scale together with farmed fish. So can mussels, benthic and microalgae. Large-scale cultivation of algae and shells will help to reduce climate change through its uptake and storage of CO₂. Ocean Forest wants to build plants that remove more CO₂ than it generates and thus develop key environmental solutions through synergies between biology and technology.

National and international cooperation

In addition to these projects, Bellona has collaborated with a range of different businesses over the years, amongst them many registered as UN Global Compact businesses, such as Aker Solutions, NHO, Avinor, Innovasjon Norge, Jotun AS, Norges Rederiforbund, Norske Skog, Siemens and Yara. All partnerships which we engage in, aim to identify and develop solutions for a greener and more sustainable future. This is also why Bellona has participated in all UN climate change conferences, COPs, since 1992. The Bellona Foundation has observer status at the Climate conferences, and has made a point of striving to impact the debate with a cross-sectorial approach.

At COP21 in 2015, Bellona co-operated with independent research institution Cicero and Norwegian multinational Yara. During the two weeks we had more than 30 side events covering a broad set of topics e.g. sustainable food production, the IPCC and carbon negative solutions, international shipping, marine plastic pollution, renewable energy and fossil subsidies. We are also member of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition ([CCAC](#)) since 2012.

Anti-Corruption: *Speaking up about Environmental Crimes*

Over the past 30 years, Bellona has dug up a number of cases involving authorities – governmental or corporate – suppressing their responsibility, legally and ethically, towards the environment. In Norway, Bellona's activities introduced the phrasing "environmental crime" into the Norwegian language and law enforcement.

There are several concrete examples in Bellona's history, which clearly show how we fight corruption through our work:

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill

In April 2010, the Deepwater Horizon accident caused the largest marine oil spill in history. The US Government estimates that as much as 780,000 m³ escaped into the water column during the 87 days that the well leaked.

But the story of the explosion aboard the BP-operated platform isn't just about the tragic loss of eleven human lives and the world's largest offshore oil spill. It is also a story about a disaster that could have been avoided, and how efforts to cover up the damages eclipsed the urgency of cleaning it up. The consequences of these actions have amplified the harms haunting the Gulf region today, and will most likely continue to do so for decades.

Bellona visited the spill area in the days after the accident, and has followed the cleanup operations closely, publishing almost a hundred [articles on the subject](#).

The Sochi Olympic Games

Vladimir Putin's Sochi Winter Olympic Games of 2014 proved a nearly unparalleled ecological and human rights disaster. Environmentalists were harassed and jailed, environmental law was rewritten to accommodate illegal construction and waste dumping in protected lands, Sochi's drinking water was poisoned, and \$51 billion in shady financing later, the Sochi region and surrounding forests, wetlands and beaches are nearly destroyed.

Bellona has, together with other environmentalist groups, made continuous efforts to tell these stories to the world, through [publishing numerous articles](#) featuring interviews with jailed activists and photographic proof of the damaged areas.