

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC) is a member of the United Nations Global Compact Network, and is committed to support its ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption in order to combat corruption, ensure fair competition, and comply with the principles of corporate governance.

With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders.

The German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC) was established in Egypt in 1951. Representing 2700 member companies GACIC is the largest organisation in the framework of business cooperation between Germany and the Arab world. GACIC plays a pivotal role in Egyptian and German business cooperation.

GACIC primary goals are:

- to promote trade and industrial development
- to enhance business cooperation between Germany and Egypt
- to enhance business cooperation between Germany and the Arab world.

GACIC vision:

- the most valued service provider for businesses engaged in bilateral trade, service providers and investors
- the representative body for German business in Egypt
- an accepted dialogue partner for both Egyptian and German institutions and both the Egyptian and the German governments.

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,

Dr. Rainer Herret

CEO of the German-Arab

Chamber of Industry and Commerce

May Khairy

Global Compact Officer

GACIC

Background about GACIC:

Since sixty five years the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce is promoting bilateral business relations between the Egypt, North Africa, the Middle East and Germany.

Representing more than 2700 member companies GACIC is the largest organisation in the framework of business cooperation between Germany and the Arab world. GACIC plays a pivotal role in Egyptian and German business cooperation.

The Chamber has become one of the most innovative providers of services for German Arab trade.

GACIC Services:

1. Provide information about the industrial sectors in Germany and the most important international trade fairs
2. Export financing
3. Senior Expert service
4. Business travel arrangements
5. Business visa support
6. Import Promotion Desk
7. Corporate social responsibility

GACIC Activities in Compliance with UN Global Compact Principles

Human Rights

Principles 1 – 2:

1. GACIC highly upholds policies that respect human rights at the workplace.
2. All employees are free and equal in dignity and rights.
3. GACIC is committed to the safety of its employees, property, and equipment; ensuring the health and safety measures are in place and guaranteeing the protection against work mechanical, physical, and other hazards.
4. Employees are entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in Universal Declaration of Human Rights without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

5. GACIC protects the rights of employees through explaining their rights and responsibilities upon employment according to the Egyptian Labor Law.
6. All the employees are hired upon a contract with GACIC.
7. GACIC never employs people at the age of 15 years or less

Labors

Principles 3 – 6:

1. GACIC hires its employees based on qualifications and experience without exhibiting acts of discrimination or biases based on religion, race or gender. Discrimination between employees does not occur in any form as they all abide to the same policies and procedures.
2. Newly hired employees should undergo certain medical examination and the results are kept as private information that does not affect the hiring decision except in critical cases.
3. There is a medical insurance service offered to all employees.
4. HR performs an appraisal to all GACIC employees to assess their performance that helps in identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and evaluate their training needs.
5. GACIC offers the employees training programs to empower them and develop their capacities.
6. Under the auspices of the German ambassador and in cooperation with the GIZ, Egyptian and German companies established the National Employment Pact (NEP). Since its inception, this initiative to combat unemployment has created thousands of jobs in technical professions and achieved fair working conditions mainly for young Egyptians. Initiators of the NEP are the German-Egyptian business community in close cooperation with the GACIC.
7. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) committee works with government, business, and education leaders to increase workforce skill levels, help employers find skilled workers, and retain talented graduates.
8. GACIC in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Foundation provided a lecture on “ILO Core Labour Standards and the Draft Law on Trade Union Freedom” in 2011 to discuss the eight ILO Conventions that are identified by the ILO's Governing Body as being fundamental to the rights of human beings at work, irrespective of levels of development of individual member States. These rights are a

precondition for all the others in that they provide for the necessary implements to strive freely for the improvement of individual and collective conditions of work.

Environment

Principles 7-9:

1. GACIC encourages the members to add their expertise and insight, and work closely with key government decision makers — by participating in one of the Chamber committees. The committees meet regularly, with the collective goal of improving the business climate and competitiveness for all who live and work in Egypt in order to foster bilateral trade and investment between Egypt and Germany.
2. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) & Environment is one of these committees. The committee envisages pursuing ethics, compliance and corporate responsibility training to embed best practices for big and small companies and to promote a more environmentally responsible community.
3. Energy committee works with business and government leaders to engage in dialogue, education, and advocacy on energy issues facing investors in Egypt. This committee provides a forum for identifying and discussing common issues affecting the energy industry and consumers.
4. BASF Ltd. Egypt supports, together with the Nuremberg Chamber of Industry and Commerce (CIC) and the German Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC) as a consortium in a develoPPP.de project introduce “Energy Manager” as a new profession in Egypt in the field of energy management. This opens interesting business opportunities for providers of products and services in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy EE/RE in Egypt. Decision makers from ministries and financial institutions are included in the training in order to obtain an overview of energy-related technologies and incentives, appropriate conditions and costs and financing.
5. The training of in-house energy managers supports mainly export-oriented Egyptian companies that will benefit from the following international standards and the application of innovative energy technologies. The sustainable reduction of energy consumption and the market launch of EE/RE technologies finally contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions and thus make a major contribution to improving the environment and increasing the air and quality of life.
6. GACIC held a business dinner with H.E. Dr. Khaled Fahmy, Minister of Environment to discuss “Governmental efforts to create an enabling investment environment for recycling and waste to energy” in November 2015.

7. Following the success of SB13 Cairo, the German University in Cairo – Architecture and Urban Design (GUC) and The German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC) are organizing under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities the Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2016 (SBE 16) in Cairo, which will take place from 29th of November till the 1st of December at the Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel.

The objective of SBE16 Cairo is to address the challenges facing the region. Major challenges facing Egypt include but are not limited to the provision of energy and water. Nevertheless, in order to ensure an efficient and sustainable use of the scarce resources, our practices towards the built environment should be revised to be proactive to accommodate the rapidly urbanized region. The conference is action oriented rather than merely a scientific gathering; and thus puts emphasis on the importance of 'integrating' stakeholders, processes, and technology to ensure a sustainable living for all.

SBE16 Cairo is part of the international conference series (SBE16-17) <http://www.sbe-series.org/> which will be concluded by the World Sustainable Built Environment Conference WSBE17 Hong Kong. The event is the pre-eminent international conference series on sustainable building and construction and places a core emphasis on peer-reviewed papers, presentations of regional policy papers, displays of pre-evaluated projects and high-quality commercial exhibits.

8. B2B Renewable Energies is an initiative of the bilateral German Chambers of Commerce and receives support from the German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology within the scope of the "Export Initiative for Renewable Energies". The business platform is coordinated by the German-Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce, which acts as the system headquarter of www.renewablesb2b.com.

The multilingual online business platform B2B Renewable Energies is the first vertical platform for renewable energies worldwide, providing companies from the sectors solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, geothermal, biomass and energy efficiency with valuable information about international target markets.

The platform's centerpiece, the electronic marketplace, offers export oriented companies a unique set of web-based instruments aiming on accelerating and simplifying business processes along the entire supply chain. Companies from the renewable energy sector benefit from using B2B Renewable Energies as an uncomplicated tool to obtain sector-specific information and as a personalised business and advertisement platform.

9. A German-Egyptian Foundation for Renewable Energy is established upon a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was signed by both Khamis - Egyptian Industrialist and President of the GACIC - and GACIC.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10:

1. GACIC is committed to the ten fundamental principles of the United Nations Global Compact corporate initiative and fosters fair and sustainable business policies and practices.
Through the Global Compact, the United Nations aims to establish a global code of conduct for sustainable business policies and practices.
 - The corporate initiative came about through the collaboration of: Government, companies and civil society
 - The Global Compact principles relate to: human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption

The CSR committee of GACIC provides a platform for companies from Egypt and Germany to exchange information and ideas for CSR initiatives/projects. This allows interested companies that lack the capacity to undertake a project on their own to play an active role in CSR efforts by working together with like-minded parties.

2. GACIC helps companies to develop their own approach to supply chain responsibility and to fight corruption, by developing and issuing a suite of publications, private sector rules, guidelines and other tools as guidance in this regard.
3. GACIC envisages pursuing ethics, compliance and corporate responsibility training to embed best practices for big and small companies. GACIC is committed to actively contribute to the development and implementation of such training.

Others:

Cooperation and support for the Global compact Network Egypt

- Hosting awareness raising sessions that resulted in the enrolment of GCNE
- promoting the GCNE through GACIC media:
 - our monthly e-newsletter circulated among more than 3000 Egyptian and multinationals
 - bi-monthly magazine “German-Arab Trade “
 - website: special section and page on GCNE activities and registration link