COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

World Vision Australia

Communication on Engagement on World Vision Australia's engagement with the United Nations Global Compact

October 2013 – October 2016

Part 1: Statement of continued support from World Vision Australia's Chief Executive Officer

World Vision actively supports the 10 principles of the United Nations (UN) Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and the prevention of corruption.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe a number of areas where we have been able to collaborate with the Global Compact to promote the principles. This report focuses on our engagement and advocacy within Australia and at a global level with our partners.

In pursuing our mission to seek the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable, World Vision continues to see value in endorsing, and collaborating with, the UN Global Compact.

Sincerely,

Tim Costello

Chief Executive Officer

World Vision Australia

Part II: Description of Actions

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. It serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision's mission is to work with the poor and marginalised to promote human transformation and seek justice for all, especially the most vulnerable. Our vision is *for every child, life in all its fullness and the will to make it so* requires an organizational commitment to address poverty and vulnerability in all contexts.

World Vision's pledge is to be accountable, effective and efficient for the children and communities we serve and for our donors. Our organisation is a member of the International NGO Charter of Accountability (INGO Charter) which has provided additional impetus, sharpening our understanding of the many dimensions of accountability and identifying areas for improvement. As an INGO Charter member, it is a requirement that World Vision's annual Accountability Report is reviewed by an independent panel of experts.

During this reporting period, World Vision has been actively advocating the role of business and cross-sector partnerships – between government, business, civil society and UN agencies – in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Specifically, World Vision Australia has worked closely with the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme in global advocacy campaigns aimed at informing the New Urban Agenda – a set of guidelines and measurements that will support the implementation of the SDGs in urban areas, specifically Urban SDG #11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, save, resilient and sustainable" – which was launched at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016.

1. **Collaboration to host first Australian Urban Thinkers Campus**
   As part of a global UN-Habitat campaign to inform the New Urban Agenda, World Vision Australia and the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme hosted the first Australian Urban Thinkers Campus themed "Ethical Cities: Locking in Liveability" in February 2016.

   Attended by over 250 participants, the event brought together key representatives from the government, civil society and private sector to discuss key principles, policies and action planning aimed at bringing ethics and values to the forefront of city planning, urban governance and sustainable urban development.

   The event explored the notion of an ethical city through three core themes: (1) Ethical Urban Development, (2) Resilience and (3) Inclusion and Right to the City. Ethical cities are environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable, and utilize transparent, accountable, respectful, democratic, and inclusive mechanisms of engagement. The Urban Thinkers Campus proposed that "The City We Need is Ethical and Just" – embodying the four issue areas and ten principles of the UN Global Compact.

In terms of addressing the theme of Ethical Urban Development, the event highlighted the importance of recognising biases and divergent interests of various city stakeholders, including the business sector, and how they work with other stakeholders to shape urban development. Participants agreed that the key to success when embracing an ethical framework for urban development is to ensure transparency and effective civic engagement, particularly during the planning to implementation stages for local and citywide projects. Participants considered the achievement of continuous and ongoing participation between stakeholders as a crucial factor underpinning ethical urban development. They emphasised the importance of open and transparent governance and respect for the rule of law.


In terms of resilience, the event highlighted climate resilience as a critical determinant of a safe city, reinforcing the need for community-led policy and project development to address climate

change rather than relying solely on local government. Participants agreed that capacity development activities should be directed at enhancing systemic thinking at the community level, as well as the ability of local government to co-design, implement and monitor policies and projects with their communities. The participants recognised the importance of involving businesses to promote greater environmental responsibility and address environmental challenges.

In terms of inclusion and right to the city, the event explored how vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees of all ages, face challenges in accessing their rights and entitlements to services and livelihood opportunities in the city. Specifically, children and youth often feel excluded from economic, political and social life. Participants agreed that cities need to promote the genuine inclusion and participation of the most vulnerable within city governance and development processes. They highlighted the critical roles that government, civil society, research institutions and businesses play in fostering social inclusion and economic integration pathways to support the protection of basic human rights of all urban dwellers.
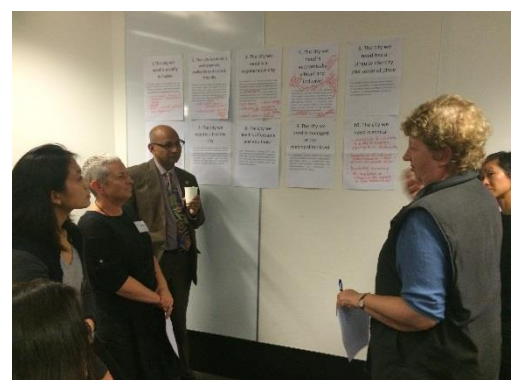
2. **Continued advocacy and engagement on the role of businesses to support sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban development**
As part of World Vision's key messages in its advocacy and engagement for the Habitat III Conference, the organisation is highlighting how businesses can contribute to equity in the city by (1) embracing a corporate social responsibility strategy where businesses join public private partnerships to create shared value and shared space in the city, and (2) promoting ethical behaviour in the city where businesses agree to ethical practices and frameworks and the most marginalised and vulnerable are included in wealth creation.

These specific calls to action to the business sector were shared during the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016, and during the Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Public Space in Barcelona in April 2016.

Part III: Measurement of Outcomes

- The key recommendations from the Ethical Cities Urban Thinkers Campus informed the basis of 'The City We Need 2.0' – a manifesto of 12 guiding principles and drivers of change suggesting ways on how to achieve sustainable urban development, led by UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign. The principles integrated the importance of ethical cities that feature free and open access to information, transparency in government, active and inclusive community engagement and responsible behaviours of production and consumption by all relevant stakeholders. The City We Need 2.0 became an input source document for the development of The New Urban Agenda, which was launched at the Habitat III Conference. The New Urban Agenda now mentions the importance of ethical cities as well as ethical consumption.
- During Habitat III, World Vision was also invited to speak during the Business Assembly to discuss approaches and multi-sectoral partnerships in which businesses can play a critical role in contributing to equity in the city, specifically through investment in education and training of the urban poor, especially youth and women.

Conclusion

World Vision holds that business is an essential contributor to the efforts to achieve a sustainable end to poverty. Our organisation calls for a broader and deeper engagement of companies in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. World Vision is therefore pleased to confirm its continued support for the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact as our organisation continues striving towards attainment of sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable.