

PART I

The Architectural Association of Kenya

16 January 2017

Dear Stakeholders,

This is to reaffirm the support of Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) for the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

Established in 1967, AAK is Kenya's leading Built and Natural Environments professional association, incorporating Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Town Planners, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Environmental Design Consultants and Construction Project Managers. As an umbrella Association, AAK brings together professionals in National and County Governments, the Private Sector and Academia. The Association also acts as a link between professionals and stakeholders in the construction industry: Including policy makers, manufacturers, real estate developers, financial institutions, among others.

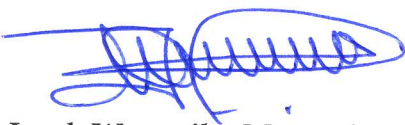
This report, AAK's first submission since joining the Global Compact in 2015, outlines our Association's commitment to, and its promotion of, the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Our objectives are:

- a) To co-ordinate the activities of professions concerned with built and natural environment in Kenya and promote professional integrity and to direct the members of the Association in all matters of professional practice;
- b) To advance the science and art of planning and building by developing the standards of professional education, training and practice, and facilitate matters of mutual interest of the member professions;
- c) To create public awareness by marketing the services of member professions and provide professional opinions on the matters pertaining to violation of the statutes provided for good maintenance of the built and natural environment;



- d) To establish and accredit Continuing Professional Development programmes for the members of the Association and encourage collaboration of professionals and societies engaged in the built and natural environment;
- e) To offer community services by participation in the enhancement of built and natural environment, maintain building information services, and monitor quality controls on materials;
- f) To liaise with the Government and regulatory agencies on the matters affecting registration and licensing of the professionals engaged in the built and natural environment;
- g) To foster National, Regional and International co-operation in matters dealing with the built and natural environment;
- h) To maintain and protect heritage of the built and natural environment;
- i) To facilitate research and dissemination of information for the advancement of professional education, training, and practice;
- j) To publish documents and publications for the benefit of the members of the Association and the general public in all matters of the built and natural environment;
- k) To create revenue generating activities for the Association;
- l) The Association shall have no political object. Notwithstanding this provision, by a resolution of the Governing Council, the Association in a non-partisan manner, reserves right and duty to participate, contribute or comment on issues of public interest.

AAK's mission statement is: *Promoting Professional Excellence and Integrity in the Built and Natural Environments.*



Jacob Wanyoike Mwangi
Chief Executive Officer



Environment

- Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The Architectural Association of Kenya has been at the forefront of expanding the use of green buildings in the country. These include:

A green building depletes the natural resources to the minimum during its construction and life cycle. The aim of green building design is to minimize the demand on non-renewable resources, maximize the utilization efficiency of these resources, when in use, and maximize the reuse, recycling, and utilization of renewable resources. It maximizes the use of efficient building materials and construction practices; optimizes the use of on-site sources and sinks by bio-climatic architectural practices; uses minimum energy to power itself; uses efficient equipment to meet its lighting and other needs; maximizes the use of renewable sources of energy; uses efficient waste and water management practices; and provides comfortable and hygienic indoor working conditions. This is detailed in the rating tool. The system, by its qualitative and quantitative assessment criteria, is able to 'rate' a building on the degree of its 'greenness'.

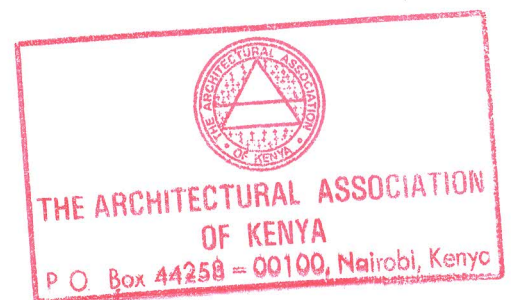
The AAK Environmental Design Consultants Chapter has been actively involved in the development of a localised green building index to be used in Kenya and the East African region.

The intent of this tool is to establish environmentally friendly practices for the planning, design and construction of buildings which will help to mitigate the environmental impact of the built structures.

The tool sets out the minimum environmental sustainability standards for buildings.

Further AAK has participated in a wide range of trainings and workshops that are designed to entrench the green building concept. These include:

- a) Green Buildings and Advancing Industry Standards in Kenya Workshops organised by the Green Economy Cycle of the German Embassy – June 2016



- b) Participation in the Green Building of the Year & The Kenya Green Architect of the Year – 2015 organised by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and UN Habitat
- c) Active participation in the Technical Committees related to Construction Technology at the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS)
- d) The Association has held a series of consultative meetings with County Governments of Kiambu, Nairobi, Kenya Urban Roads Authority among others and these were used to advocate for the adoption of responsible environment use

Human Rights

The AAK Architects Chapter and partners organized an inspiring event dubbed 'Women in Real Estate' on 6th February 2015 at the Sarova Panafric that brought together 200 women practitioners in the real estate sector in Kenya. This event was a resounding success and set the stage for a mutually beneficial partnership between AAK and Nation Media Group (through the N-Soko brand) that enabled AAK secure seven media slots on NTV.

Anti-Corruption

AAK held one day Corporate Governance Training / Induction session for Governing Council and Standing Committee Members on Friday 23rd October 2015. Training facilitated by the Centre for Corporate Governance. AAK Governing Council has agreed to hold such training / induction at the beginning of every session to help encourage adoption of good corporate governance principles within the leadership of the Association.

The implementation of a modern membership and financial information management system has been a key pillar in our effort to modernize the AAK Secretariat and enable delivery of superior services to members. I am pleased to inform you that the AAK Governing Council has recently approved the implementation of Sage Evolution - a world class Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System at AAK Secretariat. The Software has already been secured from Sage East Africa and implementation of the system is ongoing.

The successful implementation of this project will result in a fundamental transformation on the manner in which we conduct business with the automation of our critical business processes including membership records management, accounting, reporting and communication. The new system also includes a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that will enable staff at the AAK secretariat handle membership issues in a timely and professional manner.

The AAK Annual Report is available at <http://www.aak.or.ke/index.php/aak-downloads/download/2-home-page-docs/6-aak-annual-report>

