



Communication on Engagement (COE)

2016-2017



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing you this letter to reassure you that Organization for Social Development (OSD) is committed to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) with respect to Human Rights, Labor standards, the Environment and Anti-corruption.

We hereby communicate the engagement of our organization to the UN principles, its development goals and aspirations. Our goals & principles align with yours for the sake of providing service to all humanity regardless of color, gender, ethnicity e.t.c in Ethiopia.

OSD will pursue the following strategic objectives in the coming five years so as to address the most critical/strategic issues it has identified through the environmental scanning exercise:

To supplement the child protection activities of the government

To ensure gender well-being through economic independence of women

To scale-up and support existing social protection initiatives of the State

To promote the corporate social responsibility of the business community

To enhance the capacity of the organization to meet the expectations of its stakeholders

To enhance the use of organizational lessons of OSD

Therefore, we move from the same platform towards others regardless of the existing differences.

We shall continue to serve our community while being attentive to any joint project that can enhance the life of others through the United Nations and more partners. We reconfirm our honor to be one of your members and look forward to continued partnership with the UNGC and its local networks.

Sincerely yours,

Wondewosen Ayalew

Executive Director, Organization for Social Development



About us:

Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia (OSJE), later renamed Organization for Social Development (OSD), was established in September 2003 to pursue social justice through public interest litigation, human rights education, and capacity building. Since its establishment up until February 2009, it was focused on the promotion of human rights, enhancement of the capacity of the justice and legislative bodies and legal empowerment of citizens as a means for promoting social justice in the country. Following its re-registration on February 13, 2009 as per Charities and Societies Proclamation, OSD has shifted its area of operation to the promotion of CSR appreciating the potential of the private sector to ensure social justice and promote the public interest.

OSD firmly believes that social justice ensures equal access to opportunities essential for minimum quality of life (access to basic goods and services). In contexts where there is social justice, everyone is treated with dignity and respect. OSD considers that socially responsible business is a prerequisite for social justice and promotes corporate sensitivity to economic, social and environmental expectations of the society. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) encourages businesses to invest portion of their profit and skills for the benefit of the community through environmental protection and preservation, provision of basic goods and services and, creation of opportunities for economic betterment. Moreover, CSR-focused businesses proactively promote the public interest by encouraging community growth and development, and voluntarily eliminating practices that harm the public regardless of legality.

Therefore OSD has been engaged in promotion of CSR among businesses to create a society that ensures the dignity of human beings, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (DVGs).



Project Title: “Enhancing Public Private Partnership for the conservation of Sheka Biosphere Reserve”,

Partner: **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**

Awareness creation sessions to thirteen private entities on the issue of Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility(CSER) was important to kick off the whole process in sensitizing the organizations about their legal, ethical duties and responsibilities towards the environment, community and the government.

Impact: Nine interested companies are mainstreaming the notion of CSER in their respective policy frameworks and practical attachments.





Project Title: *“Enhancing the Private Sector’s responsiveness to Environmental Protection”*,

Partner: **Embassy of Finland**

With the input of capacity gap assessment of manufacturing industries in relation to environmental protection in Addis Ababa, training/workshop is delivered for more than twenty private entities leading the pathway for model Environmental code of conduct arrangement.

Impact: Eleven industries in Addis Ababa are in the process of incorporating the Model Environmental code of conduct.





Project Title: *“Promotion of child wellbeing through Enhanced Engagement of the Private Sector”*,

Partner: **Save the Children International**

Investment in children is gradually achieved through fulfillment of the ten child right and business principles (CRBP) by business entities in their cyclic operations. Consistent advocacy works and preliminary sensitization workshop/ training facilitated the realization of CRBP in the policy frameworks as well as practices of bodies corporate.

Impact: with provision of technical support eight private establishments from different sectors are fulfilling their duty of embracing the ten CRBP principles as per their respective promise notes.



Please visit our website: www.osdethiopia.org.