

## Communication on Engagement (COE) - The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 2013-2016

Part I. Statement of continued support by chief executive or equivalent

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) reaffirms its support to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti- Corruption.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions Difi has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication and the general public.

Sincerely yours,

Steffen Sutorius

Director General

*This document is approved electronically and sent without signature*

## Part II. Description of actions

The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) aims to strengthen the government's work in renewing the Norwegian public sector and improve the organisation and efficiency of government administration.

We have supported the UN Global Compact and its ten principles through the following actions:

1. Participation and contribution at events and seminars

Difi has participated and contributed at several events where human rights, pay and working conditions and/or environment and climate have been the subjects. For instance, Difi participated at the UN Forum on Human Rights and Business in Geneva in December 2013.

At several events and seminars Difi has contributed as a speaker or course instructor.

Furthermore, Difi has participated as an observer in the Norwegian Kompakt, the Government's consultation organ in cases related to the private sector's corporate social responsibility.

2. Providing public procurers with guidance on how to work with social responsibility and environment in their procurements

One of Difi's main tasks is to give guidance to public enterprises on how they can carry out good public procurements. Hereunder, Difi provides guidance for public procurers on how they can take social responsibility in their procurements. This includes guidance on how to stipulate and follow up requirements on respect for basic human rights and ILO's core conventions, and pay and working conditions. We also give guidance on how to consider the climate and environment in public procurements.

Furthermore, we have developed and offer different templates and tools for public procurers to make their work with social responsible public procurements easier, such as contract clauses, self-assessment questionnaire and risk management tool on the topic. These templates, tools and guidance are available, free of charge, on The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment, the Public Procurement Department's website, [www.anskaffelser.no/samfunnsansvar](http://www.anskaffelser.no/samfunnsansvar)

In 2016, Difi published on its website ([www.anskaffelser.no](http://www.anskaffelser.no)) new pages with guidance on how to avoid and how to uncover corruption and similar practices, including information on legislation aiming at the prevention of corruption, e.g. sanctions in the criminal code (prison and fines) and public procurement rules aiming at exclusion of corrupt contractors from participation in tenders. The guidance has a focus on the responsibility of leaders to establish a framework, routines and culture against corrupt practices. The guidance provides information and links to legislation, the Government's ethical guidelines for state employees, background information, including OECD publications, and best practice examples developed by inter alia The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) in cooperation with Transparency International Norway.

3. Cooperation with other organizations on topics related to UN Global Compact's principles  
We cooperate with Ethical Trading Initiative Norway (IEH), and together we have developed standard contract clauses on respect for basic human rights, ILO's core conventions and national labour legislation at the production place. These are to be used by public procurers in their procurements of goods, and available for everyone at our website ([www.anskaffelser.no](http://www.anskaffelser.no)). Furthermore, we have arranged seminars with IEH on the topic of respect for human rights in public procurements.
4. Arranging seminars and courses on topics related to UN Global Compact's principles  
We facilitate seminars, network meetings and courses on the subjects of human rights, pay and working conditions, and climate and environment in public procurements. The targeted audience are public procurers, and others working with public procurement, such as environment/CSR- or subject coordinators.

On our annual Public Procurement Conference with over 600 attending, human rights, pay and working conditions, environment and anti-corruption in public procurement have been important topics the last two years.

For instance, at Difi's annual Public Procurement Conference in 2015, Mr. Paulo Magina, Head of the Public Procurement Unit in OECD, gave a presentation of OECD's advice on Best Practice for Procurement. At the same conference, Transparency International Norway, was in charge of a round table discussion on how to uncover corrupt practices.

5. Stipulating requirements on respects for human rights and environment in internal procurements  
In several of Difi's internal procurements, such as coffee and fruit, we have stipulated requirements in our contracts that suppliers and any sub-suppliers must respect basic human rights, ILO's core conventions and national labour legislation at the production place, during the manufacturing process of products. Furthermore, we have stipulated climate and environmental requirements in our internal procurements, such as for cleaning services and office supplies.
6. Eco-Lighthouse certificated  
We promote environmental responsibility within our organization, and Difi is Eco-Lighthouse certificated. Being an Eco-lighthouse enterprise involves working towards satisfying requirements and implementing environmental measures on a systematic and ongoing basis in order to create more environmentally friendly operations and safer work environments.

## Government Procurement Center

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 Norway established a new Government Procurement Center, which is a part of Difi. The center shall make and administer state framework contracts (SFC). The state buy goods and services for 213 billion NOK per year. The center will make contracts in areas with large volume and where the needs of the businesses are similar. E-procurement will be promoted.

In relevant procurements the Government Procurement Center will stipulate requirements on social responsibility, such as respect for basic human rights, ILO's core conventions and national labour legislation at the production place. Furthermore, The Government Procurement Center will in planning and carrying out the purchases take into consideration environmental aspects, and stipulate requirements on climate and environment where relevant. SFC could contribute to promoting green procurement through facilitating better compliance with the rules for public procurement. Using digital procurement solutions, the Government Procurement Center will help to reduce the use of resources in both state entities and suppliers.

## Part III. Measurements of outcomes

Unfortunately, Difi does not have good enough statistics about the outcomes of our guidance for public enterprises on how to carry out social and environmental responsible procurements. Difi has not worked with social and environmental responsibility in public procurements for a long time, and it will take time before we can document the effect of our work.

However, the work we do with guiding public procurers in how they can stipulate and follow up requirements on human rights, pay and working conditions, and environmental and climate aspects in their contracts with suppliers, can be presumed to have an effect in the long run. The surveys that have been carried out on these topics, show that there is a positive trend. More public enterprises are stipulating requirements on human rights, pay and working conditions and the environment in their procurement now than earlier. Moreover, our focus in the future is to work further with statistics and measuring the effects of our work.