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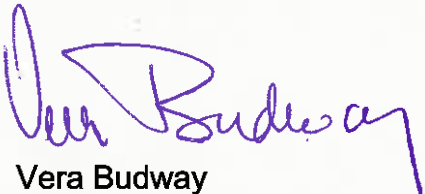
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To our stakeholders:

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the UN Global Compact is the annual preparation and posting of a Communication on Progress (COP) that comprises of a CEO statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact, a description of practical actions with regard to the main issue areas of the UN Global Compact, and a measurement of outcomes or expected outcomes.

We want to align our internal reporting cycle with the COP deadline. Our Annual Report, in to which our Sustainability Report and Communication on Progress is integrated will only be made public on 31st March. We are not able to make this information public prior to and on that date and hereby request our COP deadline to be adjusted to April 7th.

Sincerely yours,



Vera Budway  
Erste Group Diversity Manager