

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 11th June 2015

To: 11th June 2017

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent



H.E. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Date: 15 June 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that UPEACE Centre The Hague supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Marius Enthoven

Chairman of UPEACE Centre The Hague

Part II. Description of Actions

As Academic organization:

1. Educational activities to promote the UNGC principles.
 - 1.1 Delivery of the course on Social Responsibility at UPEACE Costa Rica in May 2015, 2016 and 2017 (www.upeace.org) to 45 international students;
 - 1.2 Delivery of Global Business Environment and Integration Project courses at The Hague University Business Academy to 80 international students. All courses stress the relevance of conducting business responsibly in line with the theories of CSR and Sustainability based on the principles of UNGC, OECD, ILO, ISO 26,000;
 - 1.3 Delivery of Summer School (July 2015, 2016 and 2017) and Winter school modules (Feb 2016, 2017) at The Hague University on topics related to Business & Peace, Migration, Water, Peace and Sustainable Cities to learn on the potential contribution of the private sector in attaining the SDGs in complex environments.
2. Applied research and thought leadership in relation to Global Compact.
 - a. Within the programme of Peace & Conflict, the research project on the “Intersection of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in South Sudan”, in partnership with PAX and the South Sudan Law Society, concluded with success after a period of 3 years;
 - b. Within the programme of Business & Peace, several proposals were designed to research on the potential contribution of the business sector in building peace, while fostering local economic development in conflict and post conflict contexts. A particular focus was given to address the root causes of migration in Middle East and to foster economic integration in the Netherlands. Proposals are waiting for funding.
 - c. The research project idea on Business&Peace was designed and shared within the Academy of Business in Society (ABIS) network to understand and guide businesses towards social responsible behaviours in conflict and post conflict areas.
3. Dissemination of the ten principles of the Global Compact.
 - a. Various conferences were organized in cooperation with the Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNN) and its members to share insights on how business can contribute to peace building.
In particular the international conference on **“Business in water-stressed areas: the importance of conflict-sensitive water management strategies”** on 29th March 2016, in partnership with the GCNN, WBSCD, Water Partners and the Water Diplomacy Committee (WDC) which took as a reference the UNGC principles and the Water CEO Mandate; the international conference on **“Educating and Training Leaders for Peace: Peacebuilding through sport”**, on 18th October 2016, to share the findings of the research project in South Sudan and create alliances with the private sector on foster peace through sport.
 - b. Series of lectures and conferences giving emphasis on how the 10 principles of the UNGC foster more responsible behaviours of business in promoting peace and in contribution to the SDGs, in events organized by the GCNN, Earth Charter, The Hague University, Institute of Social Studies, UPEACE Costa Rica.

As Civil society organization:

1. Creation of strategic alliance between UPEACE, GCNN, IOM, PUM Netherlands Senior Experts, to design and implement a programme in guiding Dutch businesses to invest responsibly in Middle East to contribute addressing the cause of migration;
2. Participation of UPEACE Centre in all events, annual as well as ad hoc, organized by the GCNN;
3. Active contribution to the 2015 Global Compact Implementation Survey;
4. Participation in the questionnaire on the SDGs organized by GCNN.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

1. Educational outreach: in all programmes UPEACE Centre had contributed to disseminate UNGC principles among more than 300 students both in The Netherlands and Costa Rica;
2. At least 5 research proposals were designed to promote and guide responsible conduct of businesses;
3. Through several conferences focussing on the contribution of businesses to peace building, at least 200 organizations, among the private, public and private sectors participated in the events.
4. Various strategic alliances were set up to design and soon implement research projects within the framework of Business&Peace. In particular the GCNN, PUM, IOM joined UPeace Centre in the topic of migration; UPEACE and other 3 Business Universities within the ABIS Network set up the foundation for a collaboration on a research proposal on Business&Peace in conflict affected areas; UPEACE, GCNN, CORDAID and MVO NL collaborated in the design of a proposal in support of the UNGC initiative on Business4Peace.
5. UPEACE actively participates in conferences to share its insights on the SDG16 and how businesses can contribute to Peace while following the UNGC principles.