



Paramaribo, 6 September, 2017

### **STIA / VSB COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

The Suriname Trade and Industry Association (STIA), in Dutch Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB), is the most representative employers' organization in Suriname. The Association was established on 28 March 1950. The membership of the Association includes companies and professionals, who are active in all sectors of the economy.

In the last three years the Association has undertaken many activities to promote the principles enshrined in the UN Global Compact, but also to promote related initiatives.

The first initiative is the promotion of Decent Work, in particular the implementation of the first Decent Work Country Programme of Suriname. The Association also continuously stressed the importance of Decent Work to its members, even before it was adopted as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The importance of adhering to labour standards and laws is thus well recognized.

The second initiative is the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by providing training and holding events, such as CSR Evenings and an Annual CSR Award Gala. In 2016 and 2017 the Association provided training to its members concerning ISO 26000 and a CSR application, which assists members with the development of action plans. The third Annual CSR Award Gala will be held later this year. The Annual Gala serves to honor companies that have implemented CSR policies and activities that made a difference in the past 12 months.

The third initiative is the promotion of productivity, since Suriname suffers from low productivity. This has been recognized for decades, but, unfortunately not much was done to combat this. The Association has opted to implement a productivity programme from the International Labour Organization (ILO), called SCORE, which stands for 'Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises'. The decision was taken in 2016 after two general productivity awareness workshops were held. In June 2017 the Association in cooperation with the ILO started with a SCORE pilot project.

The Suriname Trade and Industry Association / Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven is cognizant of the fact that the implemented activities were important steps, but that much more needs to be done. The Association therefore wishes to pledge without any hesitation its continued support for the UN Global Compact. The Association will thus continue to promote the alignment of business practices with the principles enshrined in the UN Global Compact under its membership.

Yours sincerely,  
Suriname Trade and Industry Association / Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven,

Steven Mac Andrew  
Director

