



His Excellency Antonio Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, NY- USA.

1STOctober 2017

Dear Secretary General,

Engr Aja Eze Foundation supports the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Our organization is delighted to renew our commitment to the principles. In our Second Annual Communication on Engagement, we describe our actions to integrate the Global Compact and its principles into our culture and daily operations.

Sincerely,

Ugoji Adanma Eze Esq.
President and Founder, Engr. Aja Eze Foundation

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Actions in Support of the Principles.

1.0 HUMAN RIGHTS.

1.1 Autism is a Human Rights Issue

As the global community plots its course for the post -2015 era, beyond the MDGs, there is a need to consider children with Autism and disabilities in Africa. The Engr Aja Eze Foundation has commenced an "Autism in Africa : Life Saving Awareness initiative". The first meeting was hosted at the United Nations Head Quarters on the 6th of December 2016 in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya , Nigeria, Israel, Poland and Japan.

The follow up capacity building meeting was held on the 14th of February and hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi, Kenya and Nigeria to the United Nations and supported by the Engr Aja Eze Foundation, Southern Connecticut State University , the Center of Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Yale University Child Study Center .

Africa's young, especially the children are the foundation of Agenda 2063. Yet despite the existence of legislation and policies adopted to protect children, the fundamental rights of thousands of children are being violated. In many parts of Africa, child rights face formidable obstacles.

About 40% of Africa's population consists of people with disabilities, including 10-15 % of school age children. School enrolment for the disabled is estimated at no more than 5-10 per cent.

The 2063 Agenda for Africa- Aspiration #6 - speaks in terms of "an Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women, and youth and caring for its children"; with priority given to Children's rights.

Further Africa's Children will have access to health, education and recreational activities. The provisions of the Africa Charter on the Rights of the Child will be implemented by 2020.

Children with Autism and disabilities are left behind in Africa. A major challenge in Africa for children with autism is that it is an invisible disability. Children with autism do not fit into any known category of disability and are thus classified as victims of witchcraft. This robs autistic children of their fundamental human rights. They are often locked up and hidden in homes and denied basic human rights eg. To health services, education, free movement and access to services.

There is a need to break down this cultural prejudices and ensure that children in Africa with Autism and disabilities are not left behind.

In Africa and globally too many children with disabilities are among the last in line for

resources and services, more particularly where they are scarce to begin with.

The deprivations faced by children with autism and disabilities are violations of their human rights and the fundamental principle of equity and for the dignity and rights of all children- including the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society.

There is a need for a paradigm shift. More than ever as the world embarks on the path to the sustainable Development Goals, investing in children- especially those with Autism and disabilities is imperative.

We need to give every child a fair chance.

The Engr Aja Eze Foundation has taken to support the Global Compact and to engage with the initiative and thus attracting new participants to the Global Compact by engaging in training , research and outreach on autism awareness in Africa; staff/professional development in a train the trainers model; targeted on-line course development and delivery for autism certification to be offered through the Southern Connecticut State University Center of Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders; needs assessment research and evaluation; parent awareness information; collaboration with Yale Child Center on Medical clinical and scientific informational sessions and partnerships and collaborative publications to raise awareness on Autism in Africa.

We engage our members and participants at the workshops on the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and to collective actions to enhance global compact related issues .

We are also organizing workshops and engaging in dialogues in line with the Global Compact Human Rights principles ,on a autism awareness Africa Campaign; enhance commitment to global partnerships and international cooperation; ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in the development processes through capacity building; the elimination of discrimination, exclusion and stigmatization; increasing awareness and education on disability to accelerate attitudinal transformation and; partnerships to ensure access to affordable devices, resources and services; enhancing research , expertise and collaboration and the delivery of early diagnosis and treatment by providing training and expertise .

1.2 There is a need to shift the paradigm to shape changes to benefit all children globally with autism and disabilities, especially in Africa.

The world is changing rapidly. Many children born today will enjoy numerous opportunities which were unavailable 25 years ago. This is not so on the African continent, where not all will have an opportunity to have an equal chance to grow up healthy , educated and above all able to fulfil their potential and become fully participating citizens, as

envisioned in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Challenges in Africa are : Lack of awareness, knowledge and expertise amongst families, professionals and the community; inadequate financial and human resources; inadequate policies for children with autism and other developmental disabilities; lack of robust public private partnership and effective collaboration between government department.

2.0 Labour

Our organization is committed to the Labour principals. This includes ensuring that local manpower is involved in our Autism Awareness initiative in Africa.

3.0 Environment

Our organization is committed to the Environment principals. We are particularly interested in the environmental dimension on the causes of Autism

4.0 Anti-Corruption

Our organization is committed to the Anti-Corruption principals. This means doing business responsibly and ethically.

5.0 Internationally.

The establishment of the Ugoji Adanma Eze Center of Excellence on Autism and Related Disorder, in Uburu, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

6.0 Recognition.

6.1 The Amsterdam News wrote about our event at the United Nations HQ on the 6th of December 2016. See: UN Advocates for autism awareness across African diaspora.

<http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2016/dec/22/un-advocates-autism-awareness-across-african-diasp/>.

6.2 It was also covered by World Peace TV :
[HTTP://WWW.WORLDPEACEEVER.TV/WOMEN-AND-CHILDREN/255-AUTISM-IN-ARICA-LIFE-SAVING-AWARENESS-A-PANEL-DISCUSSION-HELD-IN-UNHQ.HTML](http://www.worldpeaceever.tv/women-and-children/255-autism-in-arica-life-saving-awareness-a-panel-discussion-held-in-unhq.html)



Ph + 929-371-0884

PH + 929- 225-8220

P.O.Box 45 Newfoundland , New Jersey 07435

www.engrajaezefoundation.weebly.com

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