

UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

October 2017

CEO statement of continued support and ongoing commitment to the Global Compact initiative and principles:

The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) remains fully committed to the UN Global Compact and its ten principles. Cross-sectoral collaboration is a crucial aspect of CSC's strategy for protecting and fulfilling street-connected children's rights around the world. In particular, we focus on Principles 1 and 2: ensuring that businesses support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and that they are not complicit in human rights abuses. We are proud to reaffirm our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence.



Caroline Ford
Chief Executive Officer

Practical actions taken to support the Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative:

CSC is pleased to report that the [UN General Comment on Children in Street Situations](#) was published in July 2017. The General Comment is specific authoritative guidance for governments on how to improve policy and practice so that street-connected children can access their rights. It is the culmination of seven years of dedicated campaigning, ground-breaking consultation, and collaboration between street-connected children, NGOs, the private sector and the UN. Baker McKenzie, as well as in-house counsel at Merck, Regeneron, Cargill and Salesforce, helped bring the voices of street-connected children into the General Comment through pioneering consultations with street children in Brazil, India, Belgium and Mexico.

As noted in our last Communication on Engagement, our partnership with Aviva, a Global Compact member, was key to the delivery of core programmes and projects which raised the profile of street-connected children. Aviva has since further supported CSC in ensuring that this crucial guidance is promoted to governments around the world by sponsoring the official launch of the General Comment at the UN in Geneva in September 2017. They also supported

the production of a child-friendly guide to the General Comment, which was distributed at the UN and amongst our global network.

Furthermore, Baker McKenzie has engaged with CSC on a new project to develop an online tool documenting laws and policies around the world that (directly or indirectly) discriminate against street children. This project has had the support of a number of corporate partners, such as Abbvie, Amazon, Cargill, CNH Industrial, Merck, Salesforce, Starbucks and 3M, all of whom have dedicated time to produce research on the key issues of legal identification, police round-ups and the criminalisation of street children. This partnership is the start of a longer-term strategy to raise awareness amongst governments, lawmakers and lawyers of the challenges faced by street children and to effect positive change.

CSC partnered with British Airways in 2015 and 2016 through its Communities and Conservation Programme. This enabled CSC to extend its reach to achieve change for street-connected children globally through a powerful combination of generating evidence, sharing learning across our membership and influencing policy makers. It meant that leading researchers and practitioners who would not otherwise have the resources to exchange learning and connect with one another were able to do so at our annual research conferences. This partnership supported CSC with its coordination of the aforementioned General Comment consultations with street-connected children and afforded CSC the opportunity to visit three pilot project partners in its innovative 'Building with Bamboo' project on resilience in street-connected children.

Measurement of outcomes (qualitative or quantitative measurements of results):

- The General Comment on Children in Street Situations was completed and published by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Significantly, the first paragraph of the General Comment directly quotes street child participants in the consultations. This is the first time that street children's views have been given such prominence on an international platform.
- The official launch of the General Comment, which took place in Geneva on 28 September 2017, had an excellent turnout, with participation from national governments, UN representatives, corporate supporters and CSC network members, and featured presentations by two former street-connected individuals. The event was livestreamed to an audience of over 2,700 people.
- The International Day for Street Children campaign, which takes place annually on 12th April, has continued to reach a wide global audience. In 2017 our 'This is our time' campaign reached over 569,000 people, and over 50,000 people actively engaged with our Twitter communications.
- CSC's Global Resource Centre (www.streetchildrenresources.org) remains the recognised "go to place" for resources and research on street children internationally, and has expanded to contain almost 1,500 resources.