



**SPANDA
FOUNDATION**

Empowering Transmutation

*An International Civil Society Organization (ICSO) to catalyse sustainable long-term systemic change in Consciousness, Culture, Education, Health & Environment, Economics and Research
Organization in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*

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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: December 2015 through December 2017

Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

The Hague, 23rd December 2017

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Spanda Foundation reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) 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,

Prof. Dr Sahlan Momo

Chair of the Board



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ABOUT SPANDA

MANDATE & OBJECTIVES

The Spanda Foundation has a cross-cultural goal, aiming to a better understanding among people through a deeper knowledge of their mutual cultures, ideas, traditions, faiths and beliefs in a dialogue intended to stimulate cultural diversity. At the heart of this mission is an aspiration to contribute to the achievement of a higher individual and collective state of consciousness. Spanda is particularly interested in projects that encourage freedom of inquiry, imagination, insight, creativity and expression. Spanda is active in promoting individual and collective development, culture, education, health, the environment, microfinance, scientific initiatives and projects that add social value by fostering creative solutions and strategic resources and that, by serving the common good, may advance human progress and enrich communities towards a more just, sustainable and peaceful world.

AIMS:

- To promote transnational and international development and cooperation to advance human achievement.
- To promote the transition to participatory sustainability for the future and the implementation of ways for society to live in balance with the natural world.
- To promote the understanding of factors affecting the quality of life for the future of humanity.
- To promote humane health care and greater equity in global health and education.
- To support innovative programs that challenge existing cultural, social and scientific patterns and to introduce new models of practice.
- To promote the study, the preservation and conservation of cultural and environmental heritage and indigenous knowledge (IK) while fostering the ecological awareness for future generations.
- To use science and education to promote solutions that help conserve nature.
- To promote and foster relations and exchange of cultural, artistic, religious and scientific values among people, countries, regions and groupings, particularly by seeking to generate mutual understanding and acceptance at grassroots levels for their intellectual, cultural and spiritual heritage.
- To provide the bridge for cultural and scientific exchange and appreciation between Eastern and Western cultures, and facilitate and enhance educational opportunities for the community.
- To collect and disseminate knowledge and information about the arts and culture in both policy and practice and by serving as a locus for interdisciplinary exploration of higher education.
- To enhance dialogue and interactive interchange between cultures on a wide range of issues, thereby improving bilateral and multilateral relations.
- To encourage research and cultural exchange through community and academic learning.
- To support the collection and provision of international exchange information and international cultural exchange standard bearers.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Foundation acts in an advisory capacity to governments, parliaments and social organizations. Spanda, as independent facilitator between the official public bodies, the academic world and the cultural and scientific fields, seeks to achieve its aims:

- by means of research;
- by publishing studies, organizing and promoting cultural events, courses and training programs, and by distributing educational content;

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AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION (ICSO) FOR DEVELOPMENT

STICHTING SPANDA

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- by providing information, comprehensive training, equipment, consultations, and exhibition opportunities to independent and public cultural and scientific operators;
- by awarding grants, prizes and scholarships;
- by fostering the preparation of essential human, academic, professional and scientific resources and expertise for the highest quality of professional performance;
- by gathering and disseminating accurate information through catalogues, databases, journals, photographic archives, publications, and other compendia;
- by sharing of expertise, direct exchange of research and experience through conferences, symposia, seminars and other professional meetings;
- by maintaining a library and documentation center, and all other activities, endeavors, ventures and undertakings, none excluded, consistent with its institutional aim and deemed useful to its achievement.

Spanda's Programmes and interests are built around five core areas of focus: Culture, Education, Health & Environment, Economics and Research.

Programmes are designed to catalyze long-term systemic change and the advancement of peace, knowledge and understanding among individuals, groups and organizations who are both the source and recipients of various forms of knowledge and that, by being founded on good practices, contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and communities. Some projects, for their specificity, may originate, advance, expand and be implemented under two or more programmes areas.

Spanda supports its mission with long-term projects requiring multi-year commitments of funding and technical assistance.

SPANDA FOUNDATION'S CURRENT PROJECTS:

JUBILO – Conflict prevention and transformation, ethnic integration and peace building through a comparative approach in intercultural and interfaith dialogue

This project fosters the conflict prevention, ethnic integration and peace building actions through a comparative in-depth, open, respectful and tolerant dialogue among the faiths and cultures. It embodies a threefold structure: The Abraham's Legacy television series; the Tea for Peace round-table dialogues; and The Spirit Inspires my Way multimedia series.

By prompting the comparative vision, the Project underlines the contribution of different cultures to our common heritage and lifestyles; raises awareness of the importance of exploring together the means to develop an active participation in our society respecting cultural diversity – cornerstone for a sustainable peace process and world unity in a community based on common shared values. It tests, influences and informs public policy.

Jubilo is a powerful educational agent able to reach all segments of the international society, educating – particularly young people – beyond schools and curricula to the vital values and sense of belonging to the human community of global citizen.

Outcomes:

Tea for Peace, the operational Programme of the project, aims to further the goals of conflict prevention, ethnic integration and peace building through and thanks to the intercultural and interfaith dialogue.

Tea for Peace transformative roundtables underline the contribution of different cultures to the variety of life, from government systems to scientific discovery, followed by a round table dialogue with guest speaker of different culture and faiths, in which the audience was welcomed to join in. Guidelines were given to the audience beforehand to involve it actively in the dialogue and, at the end, all participants were welcome to a warm and cozy party with tea and refreshments.



Although Spanda supports all types of spiritual approach, practices and cultural understanding, Tea for Peace focused on Jewish, Christian and Muslim issues of interaction and tolerance. By providing an open forum for discussing issues and sharing ideas, Tea for Peace specifically addressed the problems of education for peace, interfaith education, tolerance, civil and human rights, cultural diversity, cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue, and community building.

The Tea for Peace events also included:

- A topic on spirituality or religion, dealing with controversial or misunderstood issues;
- Expert speakers from various faiths and various disciplines, from practicing clerics to academics, who will be present to provide analysis and commentary both on the current topic and the film or multimedia presented that evening;
- By providing an open forum for discussing issues and sharing ideas in a safe environment, and by promoting a comparative understanding of the Abrahamic faiths, the Tea for Peace programme specifically addresses the problems of education for peace, interfaith education, tolerance, civil participation, civil and human rights, cultural diversity, cross-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, ethnic integration, conflict prevention, community building and development. This allows a qualified and thorough comprehension of the subject matter in all segments of the community and international audience.

A recent (2016) further advancement of the Tea for Peace Programme is the Middle Council Rounds bi-lateral Netherlands-Italy with the participation of leader, policy makers, media, and the community, to collectively contribute to tackling the immigration issue in the Mediterranean see, is now on its funding phase, and should become operative by mid-2018.

MANTRA – Poverty reduction through green microfinance, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture to empower women and communities to attain economic self-sufficiency and a sustainable and equitable development.

The Mantra Mapuche Chapter (MC): Solar energy to alleviate poverty and empower the Mapuche communities to lead lives of self-reliance, meet their own basic needs and attain economic self-sufficiency, respecting human rights in harmony with their culture and the environment. There is an ongoing crowdfunding campaign on IndieGogo.

In response to the latest impacts of climate change in the South of Chile, the MC project has been set up to provide relief to the country's indigenous Mapuche population. Together with local communities, this initiative has been developed in order to first, alleviate the currently most pressing grievances, and second, support them in building up their very own capabilities to improve their current living conditions through their own strength.

Outcomes:

In practice MC will provide the following support:

- Solar panel equipment to generate electricity;
- Productivity enhancing tools, matched to the particular activities of the different communities;
- Training for the installation, use and maintenance of the devices, as well as for micro-entrepreneurial activities;

What are the challenges? And how can these devices help the Mapuche people?

Challenge 1 - Poverty

How can MC help?

The aim of MC is to promote an increase and a diversification of the rural Mapuche producers' production and income. Therefore, MC will provide productivity enhancing tools in combination with a variety of training sessions. The combination of these elements will facilitate laborious activities,



improve the quality of their work, and furthermore strengthen their entrepreneurial spirit. Hereby, a strong focus on capacity building is seen as crucial in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency for the communities in the long term. In addition, already in the short term, the shift to renewable energies will allow Mapuche families to reduce their high energy expenses.

Challenge 2 - Environment

How can MC help?

The MC project will introduce and proliferate the use of solar energy among indigenous Mapuche communities. This will alleviate both the national energy demand as well as the use of kerosene, fuel wood, and CO₂ emitting fossil fuels, thus contributing to an environmental relief in the short as well as the long term.

As the use of renewable energies perfectly fuses with the Mapuches' ambition to protect their environment, this form of electricity generation poses a promising model that could be widely replicated and scaled within other developing Mapuche communities. Hence, MC has the potential to contribute significantly to preserve the unique landscape of this beautiful region.

Challenge 3 - Cultural Identity

How can MC help?

Against this trend, the MC will empower marginalized Mapuche communities to participate in the life of the nation without losing sight of their cultural heritage. Renewable energies will allow Mapuche people to facilitate their traditional livelihood practises, diversify and add value to their goods. Together with the provision of educational and technological support, this will allow Mapuche peoples to achieve value creation in harmony with their cultural identity.

Challenge 4 - Water Scarcity and Pollution

How can MC help?

There is a solution to water scarcity in spite of the shortcomings of natural water sources — such as rivers, lakes, and streams — which is the use of rainwater. The MC will supply rain water treatment systems together with solar powered water pumps that will provide clean and fresh water for agricultural, and most importantly, for direct human consumption. This ensures that each community can generate an adequate and stable volume of water for both its population's agricultural activities and human consumption, while at the same time building up own capabilities instead of getting further dependent on external support.

MUSIKÉ –Research, recovery, documentation, conservation and dissemination of the ethnomusicological heritage.

Musiké's purpose is to research, recover, document and conserve the world's ethnomusicological heritage and to disseminate it across a wide audience by means of concerts, books, CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, periodicals and web sites dedicated to the subject. In this way it is possible to provide a contribution towards a better understanding of cultural diversities and a greater tolerance between peoples, thanks to a deeper understanding of musical traditions and in virtue of the meta-historical values of human existence of which music is among the principal bearers.

Outcomes:

— *The Charmed Flute Concert Tour*. An itinerary of research throughout the fascinating connections between the physical features of an instrument, the peculiarities of its sound and musicality, and the anthropological aspects related to its use – considering both historical and geographical differences – to finally explore the symbolical and mythological meta-significances associated to the instrument itself.

One of the educational bearings of the project lays on the learning and the teaching processes of the



playing techniques. This illustrates how valuable knowledge within a certain community is inherited, developed and transmitted to the future generations.

The Concert Tour carries on the research on a comparative methodology approach: instruments of the same family (e.g. aerophone, chordophone, membranophone, idiophone, and vocals) stemming from different cultural areas are brought together and observed in their similarities, differences and peculiarities. For each family of instruments, as well as for the group of instruments of the same family, three main activities are foreseen.

— The *Cave 3.0* multidisciplinary opera integrating live performance and hologram depicting the creation and development of human consciousness as perceived and narrated throughout different epics around the world.

AKARMA – Fostering a clean sustainable systemic change while ensuring clean, karma-free processes, products and complex devices for future generations.

LILA – A virtual platform meant to co-create and implement trans-disciplinary cultural and development policies. The OECD is partner with this project, and there currently are extensive relation to expand partnership with Oxfam International.

PUBLICATIONS – Even though the Spanda Foundation is not a publishing house, it publishes under its own imprint Spanda Publishing, occasional and working papers such as final reports of its projects, results and reflections from ongoing research, discussion and topical papers, conference proceedings and the like to stimulate and disseminate new insight in current issues. The series, published predominantly in English, is targeted at international policymakers, academics, journalists and the general public.

Commercially published books, as the multimedia/printed series of the Jubilo and Musiké projects, are co-published with commercial, international publishing houses or counterparts.

Outcomes:

~ **Spanda Educational Initiative (SEI)** - Spanda's Open Access publications are available free of charge to individuals who could benefit from its knowledge and to groups and not-for-profit organizations who serve people in need and the common good.

~ **Spanda Journal** – International peer-reviewed Journal of the Spanda Foundation

~ Vol. VII, 1, 2017 *Collective Enlightenment*.

~ Vol. VI, 2, 2015 *Creativity & Collective Enlightenment*.

~ **Musiké Journal**. International Journal of Ethnomusicological Studies – peer-reviewed journal.

~ Vol. VIII, 3, 4 (2016) *Charmed Flutes. Bansuri, C-Flute, Dizi, Ney, Quena, Shakuhachi, Suling, Tambin*.

~ **Spanda Papers** - Spanda Collection of essays and technical reports to serve as reference works for its projects.
