



19 January 2018

To our stakeholders

ICAEW UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

I am pleased to confirm that ICAEW reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of 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 organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

ICAEW is a world leading professional membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports more than 149,000 members worldwide. We provide our members with knowledge and guidance, and ensure ICAEW Chartered Accountants are meeting the highest ethical and technical standards. As financial experts we act in the public interest offering insights into business and the economy that help to shape government policy and regulation.

As a professional body action begins for us in upholding ICAEW's Code of Ethics which applies to all members, students, affiliates, employees of member firms and, where applicable, member firms, in all of their professional and business activities, whether remunerated or voluntary. Chartered Accountants are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professional conduct and to take into consideration the public interest. Ethical behaviour by Chartered Accountants plays a vital role in ensuring public trust in financial reporting and business practices and upholding the reputation of the accountancy profession.

ICAEW is practically active in many areas covered under the UN Global Compact and its Principles. This includes but is not limited to:

- Our work advising and guiding members on anti- bribery and corruption;
- Our work in the Natural Capital Coalition helping business to understand and improve its relationship with nature; and
- Our work promoting awareness and compliance with UK reporting on modern slavery guiding our members to the adoption of best practice.

In this report we have chosen to focus on our engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which for us has been critical in incorporating all of this important work into our strategy. We have put the Goals at the heart of the ICAEW vision and our definition of the Public Interest

We have used the Goals to give a narrative to the ICAEW vision of a world of strong economies. This narrative is: a world of strong economies means prosperous and resilient economies, operating in fair and just societies, all achieved within what nature can provide and based on good governance and partnerships.

The period covered by this Communication on Engagement is from 15 January 2016 to 19 January 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Izza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Izza
Chief Executive

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Over the past two years ICAEW has worked to adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its strategy. ICAEW is a professional body with an international focus and a public interest role representing 149,000 Chartered Accountants. The SDGs provide a clear and compelling articulation of the public interest. This provides a focus for ICAEW's work through which we can demonstrate our public interest role in a meaningful way. Our vision is a world of strong economies. Interpreting this in terms of the SDGs means prosperous and resilient economies, operating in fair and just societies all achieved within what nature can provide. ICAEW passionately believes that we and the profession must step up to this responsibility to serve the public interest, demonstrate our relevance and ensure that real change happens. Our ambition is to build partnerships to work collaboratively to galvanise every business by reaching every Chartered Accountant.

As a professional body we recognise that the accountancy profession has a vital role to play in delivering the SDGs. It has a presence across all sectors of business and public life. The profession enables businesses and other organisations to measure and report their progress and builds trust in those processes and disclosures. Formal measurement of the goals will be done at the national level through the KPIs associated with the 169 targets of the goals. The profession will have a substantial role to play in aligning these systems of measurement.

There are three main reasons for having confidence that the profession can deliver:

- We serve the public interest by creating public goods in the form of common bases of measurement, reporting and assurance.
- We can understand the situation around each Goal and their interconnectivity. Measuring progress will require huge amounts of data in which we will need to build trust and accountants can help it make sense.
- We have a distinguished record of building strong local institutions and they will be necessary to achieve the goals.

To deliver on the ambition to reach every Chartered Accountant we have been working to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals within our member and wider stakeholder communities. Locally in the UK ICAEW has become a partner and participates alongside the UK UNGC Network in the steering group for the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD.) ICAEW is sponsoring a chapter of the first stakeholder led National Plan for the SDGs which will be launched at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018.

Locally and internationally ICAEW has developed a series of interactive workshops that we have run with over 4000 participants worldwide. These workshops have aimed to build primary awareness of the Goals and challenge those who participate to take them in to their personal and professional lives.

In September 2017 we developed a digital mini-game to spread even further awareness of the Goals – thus far this has reached 150,000 people – the majority of which came from a millennial audience in South East Asia.

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

Much evidence of our work to date has been through anecdotal feedback that stakeholders have provided. For example we have had a number of participants from our workshops run similar sessions within their own organisations. Our intent was always to have this organic growth. Particular highlights of the last two years of work on the SDGs are highlighted below:

- 4000 individuals engaged during one of 70+ in-person workshops on the SDGs led by ICAEW
- 150,000 players of the SDG mini-game since September 2017
- Distribution of over 2000 copies of an ICAEW brochure on the SDGs defining the role for the profession

In the next two years we aim to transition awareness of the SDGs into action by scaling up our digital outreach and measurement of the uptake. In particular we want to focus on the incoming millennial generation of business leaders whether our students or younger members, or the wider business community.

