



Financial Planning  
Institute of Southern Africa

**THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD**

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To all FPI stakeholders

## Statement of Continued Support to United Nations Global Compact

The Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa (Non-profit Company) (FPI) affirms its support of the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

In this annual communication on progress we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

We attach our 2016-2017 company integrated report which highlights the values to which we subscribe, our primary activities and the role we play in the community we serve. In addition we summarise our main actions in the four areas envisaged above as follows:

### Human Rights

FPI is a professional body in the financial services industry which is committed to the following principles, namely:

- Treating Customers Fairly (TCF);
- Responsible savings and lending practices;
- Financial planning for all;
- Fair competitive practices;
- Responsible use of client information; and
- Avoidance of conflicts of interest between financial planners and clients.

A focus of FPI's advocacy initiatives for consumers is financial literacy. We have therefore implemented a number of initiatives to further financial education and literacy of ordinary consumers. These initiatives are made possible through individual volunteers, FPI Approved Professional Practice™ firms and/or FPI Corporate Partner™ companies freely making time and competencies available through our skills-based pro bono programmes such as:

- FPI MYMONEY123™ programme - A financial education community outreach programme. The aim of this programme is to actively engage all South Africans to consider and ponder their personal financial responsibilities and goals. The programme focuses on personal financial management and budgeting, deals with debt and understanding of savings and investments.
- Financial Planning Week - A consumer awareness initiative whereby members can reach out to friends, family, colleagues and community. Volunteers hand out FPI consumer brochures and host sessions on subjects related to personal financial planning.

- Consumer clinics - These are events where consumers gain access to free consultations on financial planning and related issues through the FPI pro bono initiative.
- Employer-based clinics - These financial planning clinics are offered in collaboration with employers and are presented on-site to employees of the organisation.
- Student outreach programme - A financial literacy programme and career guidance service for students. These students are exposed at an early age to the profession of financial planning and gain a life-long insight into the benefits thereof for both the individual and the community such individual comes from. The programme includes student career days where interested students can explore financial planning as a career opportunity.
- Ad hoc programmes - The Institute also participates nationally in specialised pro bono interventions aimed at consumer financial literacy such as Teach Children to Save Campaign, National Youth Financial Literacy Day and National Wills week.

## **Labour**

The South African parliament adopted the eight fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation relating to freedom of association, the right to organise a trade union and collective bargaining, the prohibition of forced and compulsory labour, the prohibition of child labour and minimum ages, the right to equal pay as well as the right to suffer no discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The Institute is an equal opportunity employer that fully complies with and supports these conventions. We have progressive employment policies that are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, the Institute supports staff in lifelong education endeavours.

## **Environment**

FPI is a small company and its relatively small environmental impact is mostly caused by energy consumption. However, we do recognise our responsibility to reduce this impact even further.

Our internal initiatives are directed at paper recycling, electricity and water savings, responsible travelling and responsible application of resources. These are implemented through internal management interventions.

We actively support initiatives in recycling of waste paper and we have subsequently implemented virtual meeting technology to avoid unnecessary travel.

## **Anti-corruption**

FPI's Code of Ethics and Practice Standards (the Code), whereby the Rules of Professional Conduct are incorporated, has been substantially revised and enhanced in 2015. All designated members subscribe to this Code.

The philosophy of the Code is that professions play an important role in an ordered society. As such a published code of ethics will protect clients and society at large by guiding our members to conduct themselves ethically. This contributes to the reputation and credibility of the profession and our members. It also guarantees sustainable development of the profession.

The Code is intended to promote ethical behaviour and to prevent unethical behaviour by members. The guidelines provided in the Code instill confidence in the members in that it gives them clear conduct boundaries. It furthermore stimulates ethical awareness and decision-making.

As a thought leader for financial planners, our staff conduct regular seminars on ethics, anti-corruption and -bribery as well as financial services regulation, both directly or through our continuous professional development arm.

The Institute's member disciplinary procedures are well developed and we co-operate in this sphere with both the financial services regulator and corporates that employ FPI members.

## Measurement of outcomes

FPI's consumer advocacy endeavours are overseen by our Advocacy Committee, our human resources policies through a sub-committee of the Audit Committee and our disciplinary processes by a Disciplinary Committee. All of these committees are FPI's Board Sub-Committees and in areas of Human Rights, Labour and Anti-corruption our operational activities therefore enjoy Board supervision and direction.

Our efforts in the environmental sphere is a delegated management function with all managers directly responsible to maximise efforts in this arena.

The Institute has not yet developed measurement criteria in these areas that will serve any purpose in this report.

Kind regards



**Kobus Oosthuizen**  
**Manager: Legal & Compliance**