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5th Feb 2018

H.E António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Sir,

RE: Statement of Commitment to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles.

I am pleased to confirm that organization for youth in environmental and educational affairs (OFYENEDA) 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 with the United Nations Global Compact in which 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 partners using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,



Daniel Kashem
Secretary/ CEO

A description of the practical actions that the organization has taken to support the Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative.

- *Engagement with Global Compact Local Networks.*

At the Global compact network Kenya annual general meeting, issues emerged around a growing number of businesses suffering expulsion from the UN global compact network and the possible measures as undertaken by the local network to reverse this trend. In these discussions, Ofyeneda took the view that partnerships between non-profits and businesses needed to be utilized alongside other measures as non-profits would spear head sustainability initiatives on behalf of businesses there by achieving greater impact as well as minimizing the burden on businesses most of whom naturally focus more on making profits than engaging in sustainable business.

Ofyeneda has since resolved to take necessary steps while in the normal scope of its operations to ensure that businesses receive free training and mentorship on their duties with regard with regard to the 10 principles of the UN global compact.

In an effort to see an increase in the number of subscriptions and a reduction in the number of expulsions, Ofyeneda has made it a common practice to engage companies in sustainability communication that is geared towards providing guidance in every aspect relating to the specific activities suggested to business participant in support of the initiative.

Measurement of outcomes (i.e. qualitative or quantitative measurements of results).

- *Background information*

Ofyeneda was registered in 2008 as a non-governmental organization operational within Kenya. Our core mandate is founded upon three pillars: Environmental conservation, education access support, and youth empowerment.

Environmental conservation: Our efforts include addressing policy review, researching and reporting on resource utilization and land use management and engaging in projects and training sessions to alter adverse human behavior.

Education access support: This program involves finding sponsorships for the bright but needy students, to see them through secondary schools and tertiary institutions; and making it possible for previous dropouts to get an education through in-house training.

Youth empowerment: Our efforts involve conducting training sessions that are aimed towards making mostly vulnerable youth acquire the prerequisite skills for engaging in successful and sustainable income generation activities.

- *Measurement of results*

Since 2008, Ofyeneda has been offering training to a broad spectrum of audience either individually or in partnership with other development players – businesses included. Corporate sustainability training that is geared towards making businesses think beyond profits and incorporate sustainability in the course of doing business has particularly shown to be fruitful. More than 2000 businesses have adopted responsible business practices, with regard to the 10 principles of the UN global compact; this fact has brought about positive change in the Kenyan society in the areas of human rights, labor, environmental and anti-corruption.

Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy training done mainly in partnership with corporates and targeting vulnerable youth aged between 14-35 years has ensured establishment and success of more than 450 SMEs that have resulted in the creation of more than 2300 jobs for the youth without discrimination on the basis of gender or otherwise.

- *Case study*

From the shackles of lacking school fees to the cusp of university graduation; here is the story of Moses Otieno



Moses Otieno (right) in his element as he explains rock concepts to a member of Ofyeneda's communications team. Otieno is on the verge of graduating with a Geology degree courtesy of Ofyeneda's outreach program.

Moses Otieno, 26-year-old man with passion and vision beyond his years cuts a calm and introverted figure. Behind his mere 5 ft. 5 inches frame is a back story of hardship, aggravated adversity and the will to keep on fighting.

As we sit down to tell his story, he is a bit laid back but eventually musters a warm smile with the assurance that all is going to be well. Otieno is currently in his third year of studies pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). Thanks to OFYENEDA's outreach education access program, Otieno is now a step closer towards actualizing his dreams.

Otieno was born in Nairobi and has three siblings. He attended Naruget Primary School in 1998 up to 2002 where financial difficulties that rocked their family forced them to relocate to their rural home in Siaya County. There, he continued his studies at Ulamba Primary School. In 2004, he sat for his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination for the first time and his grades made him eligible to proceed to secondary school.

It was at that point and time that his parents were hard hit and struggled to make ends meet. Consequently, they could not afford to take their son to secondary school and he stayed home for about two years.

In 2007, through the help of his late aunt Josephine Anyango, Otieno was able to return to school as a standard eight pupil again at Nguka Primary School, Siaya County. He was able to score 411 out of a possible 500 marks in the KCPE exam and was the best ranked pupil in Rarieda division. This impressive feat enabled him to be selected for a place at Maseno High School, a school renowned for consistent excellence in performance.

Fees breakthrough

It was at that time that OFYENEDA heard of his story and used its program to reach out to many well-wishers and potential sponsors to this bright pupil. As a result, the then area member of parliament, Nicholas Gumbo was the first to step in. He made a donation for Otieno's initial secondary fees.

In February 2008, he officially joined Maseno where he struggled to settle in. Despite not being involved in the many clubs and societies at the school, Otieno was passionate about football. "I was not active in many things but I joined the school football team and played as an attacking midfielder up to form three," he explained.

He completed his O-level studies in November 2011 and scored a B+ which qualified him to join the university under the regular government program. Before he was called up to the university, he stayed with his late aunt where he got involved in her small retail business of selling plastics.

He was selected to join SEKU in 2012 and again OFYENEDA reached out and through the support of members of the community, he joined the institution in January 2013. He was elated to have joined campus but it was a whole new world.

“It was great reaching this level having passed through all those problems and being given hope by OFYENEDA and other well-wishers. I did not settle easily and there was whole lot of freedom. This sometimes can deceive you especially when it comes to concentrating on studies,” he said.

Outside the confines of the lecture halls, Otieno enjoys watching football and admits to being an ardent Arsenal F.C supporter. He also likes reading novels and any other useful literature that he can put his hands on.

What next for Otieno?

Unlike his urban-tuned peers who dismiss the idea of getting involved in agriculture, he wants to start an agribusiness in his home area of Gem, Siaya County for food production. His decision has been informed by the ever rising population growth and wants to utilize trends in irrigation. This will help him from a business perspective and also generate food that will benefit his community.



Moses Otieno affords a smile when he visited Ofyeneda's offices in Nairobi.

As a geologist, he wants to specialize to Geographic Information System, an area that deals with collecting data. "I am hoping to graduate in 2019 and if funds are available to me, I will pursue a Master's degree in Remote Sensing as I believe education has no limit," he concluded.

ENDS

Author:

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