



" a confederation of trade associations, regional and sectoral chambers of commerce and industry, bilateral business councils and employer organisations in Sri Lanka "

Our Ref: CEO/042

24th April 2018

To Our Stakeholders

SUB: COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT – 2015 TO 2018

I am pleased to confirm that The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce 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 on 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,

Dhara S. Wijayatilake
Secretary General & CEO



THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
50, NAVAM MAWATHA, COLOMBO 02, SRI LANKA

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

FOR



Date of Submission: **24th April 2018**

Contents

	Page
I. Introduction	3
II. The Ceylon chamber of Commerce (CCC)	3
III. Core Values of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce	4
IV. Core Commitments of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce	4
V. Attracting New Participants to the UN Global Compact Through Outreach Efforts and Awareness Raising	4
VI. Organizing Learning and Dialogue Events, Workshops and Training for Members on the UN Global Compact and Specific Topics Relevant to Corporate Sustainability	4
i. Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards	4
VII. Providing Expertise and/or the Voice of Members to Global Compact Working Groups and Special Initiatives	5
VIII. Engaging Members in Collective Action Efforts on Global Compact-Related Issues	5
i. All Encompassing Principles	5
ii. The National Agenda Committees Initiative	6
iii. Implementation Of Disaster Management Initiatives	6

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) as a periodic Communication on Engagement of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) in activities aligned with the 10 Principals of the UNGC under the themes of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. It comprises of a synopsis of the key activities undertaken by the CCC in the recent past extending from the present to a maximum of three years prior.

In case of any clarification or request for elaboration on any of the undermentioned initiatives and activities, please feel free to contact:

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More information on the Chamber's activities can be found at www.chamber.lk.

II. THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CCC)

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) is the apex organization bringing together corporates, sector associations, regional chambers and bilateral business councils. In total, over 3,500 corporates are affiliated to the Chamber representing a wide cross-section from blue chip public quoted companies to regional Small and Medium Enterprises.

The CCC strongly advocated the construction of the Colombo Port and the Colombo Kandy railway. It is also the founder of the Employers Federation of Ceylon, the Shippers Council, the Mercantile Services Provident Fund and the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors; it is also an initiating partner of the Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform also known as Biodiversity Sri Lanka - all of which are thriving independent institutions today, serving the needs of the business community and its stakeholders.

The CCC is also the proud host of the World's largest, fastest and most efficient single origin tea auction, which is known as the 'Colombo Tea Auction'. The Chamber provided the space for the auction in 1898. The auctions are conducted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Colombo Tea Traders' Association under the Chamber By-laws and Conditions of Sale of Tea by Public Auction and by Private Treaty.

The CCC has the unique feature of a Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Trade Associations, Regional Chambers, Employer Organizations and Bilateral Business Councils in Sri Lanka. The CCC claims this status having formed alliances with 20 Regional Chambers, 38 Trade/Product and Service Associations and 21 Bilateral Business Councils.

III. CORE VALUES OF THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Members

Extending equal treatment to all members and to be the strategic partner for competitiveness and growth.

Employees

Harnessing their exceptional abilities and fulfilling their needs and aspirations.

Society

Maintaining highest ethical standards and promoting good corporate governance in the public.

Environment

Consciously safeguarding the environment.

Government

Continuing to be a catalyst for National Economic Development.

IV. CORE COMMITMENTS OF THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber will at all times uphold its commitment towards:

- National economic value enhancement within a framework of social equity
- Promoting the Private Sector as the engine of growth
- A sectoral bias as opposed to individual entity
- Promoting the interests of its members

V. ATTRACTING NEW PARTICIPANTS TO THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT THROUGH OUTREACH EFFORTS AND AWARENESS RAISING

The CCC is a 615 corporate member strong entity and conducts meetings with its members based on various themes and under different contexts. As and when a suitable company is identified as one that upholds the principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) or has the potential to gear the organization in that direction, the CCC encourages such companies to become a part of the UNGC. This activity is most often carried out on a one on one basis under the Chamber's advocacy role which focuses on economic value enhancement within a framework of social equity.

VI. ORGANIZING LEARNING AND DIALOGUE EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING FOR MEMBERS ON THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT AND SPECIFIC TOPICS RELEVANT TO CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

i. BEST CORPORATE CITIZEN SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

The Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award assesses the interactions of a corporate entity, private or public, listed or unlisted, with its stakeholders, environment, employees, customers, suppliers, community, government and the shareholders. The objective of this event is to recognize the importance of corporate sustainability in Sri Lanka and encourage businesses to adopt best practices to create goods and services.

An independent evaluation panel evaluated the applications as per a pre-determined marking scheme to select the award winners. The short listed applicants of the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards were called to make a brief presentation and face an interview with the panel of judges. Short listed applicants for the Project Awards were also called upon to make a brief presentation on the project and face an interview.

The BCCS awards 2017 received over 56 applications which were evaluated by a well-qualified and experienced panel of evaluators and the shortlisted applications were reviewed by a panel of judges comprising heads of several international agencies.

The awards ceremony was held on the 28th November 2017 at the Cinnamon Grand.

VII. PROVIDING EXPERTISE AND/OR THE VOICE OF MEMBERS TO GLOBAL COMPACT WORKING GROUPS AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Several of the CCC's members are a part of the UNGC as its individual members. The UNGC Working Groups and Special Initiatives benefit from the input of such members who attend dialogues and activities of the UNGC on a regular basis.

VIII. ENGAGING MEMBERS IN COLLECTIVE ACTION EFFORTS ON GLOBAL COMPACT-RELATED ISSUES

i. ALL ENCOMPASSING PRINCIPLES

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, which has played a pivotal role in shaping the Sri Lankan economy throughout its 179 year history, is guided by a set of 10 principles on its approach in influencing the trajectory of the private sector and the country's economy.

These principles, the first of its kind for a business chamber in Sri Lanka, form the basis of the Chamber's advocacy on pro-business policy and legislation, within a 'Nation-first' mind-set. The Chamber is keen to ensure that its activities, as well as its engagements within the private sector and between the private sector and the government, are based on consistent and coherent principles, instead of ad hoc stances taken from time to time.

Accordingly, the 10 principles are as follows:

1. Good Governance, Policy Stability and Regulatory Quality
2. National Integration, Harmony and Inclusiveness
3. A Market-Oriented and Private Sector-Led Economy
4. An Economy based on Competitiveness and Driven by Exports
5. Forging Mutually Beneficial Trade Agreements
6. A Strong and Thriving Small and Medium Enterprise Sector
7. Bridging Regional Growth Disparities through Business Partnerships
8. Attracting Quality FDI and Making Sri Lanka a Preferred Investment Destination
9. Sustainable and Development-focused Technology Advancement and Innovation
10. Demand-focused Education and Skills Development

The '10 Principles' are a part of the ongoing efforts of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to transform the organization's role to stay relevant to the modern day needs of its members, the wider private sector, the government and the general public, in the evolving social, political, economic scenario.

ii. THE NATIONAL AGENDA COMMITTEES INITIATIVE

The Sri Lankan economy is at an important inflection point and the private sector has an important role to play in influencing our future trajectory. Key challenges and bottlenecks need to be tackled, and the country needs cutting-edge thinking. What better way to do this than by bringing the best minds in the business towards finding new ideas and solutions? That is what the CCC's National Agenda Committees (NACs) initiative has set out to do.

The NACs are thought-leadership groups with the foremost insights on key strategic economic themes. They are multi-stakeholder in nature, and are working together to challenge conventional thinking, develop new insights, and put forward innovative solutions. Members for each NAC were carefully selected to represent the most relevant, current and knowledgeable individuals from business, government, and academia.

The Chamber's Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) curates the work of the NACs, and manages strategic outreach to take the NACs work to policymakers, business leaders, and the public.

Six NACs have been set up and have begun work as follows:

- Logistics and Transport
- Finance and Capital
- Export Development
- Infrastructure
- Innovation Ecosystem
- Energy

iii. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of its members and well-wishers continued providing emergency relief assistance to people affected by natural disasters in 2017 as well. The Chamber provided dry rations and water bottles to families affected by the collapse of the Meethotamulla garbage dump and provided financial assistance to 3 homeless families to obtain houses on rent for a one year period.

The Chamber also provided emergency relief assistance by way of dry rations, water bottles, clothes to tea small holders and estate workers in Ratnapura District affected by floods and landslides in May 2017. The Chamber is now in the process of constructing permanent houses for 3 families in the Bulathsinhala DS Division, whose houses were completely destroyed by the floods and landslides at a cost of Rs. 3.75 Mn using donations as well as Chamber's own funds.

The Chamber has been appointed as a member of Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), which was founded through a partnership between Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for improving the preparedness and emergency response to disasters in Asia by strengthening humanitarian leadership and technical capacity of National Governments and Local Humanitarian Organizations so that they can lead and better engage in the humanitarian framework. The focus countries of APP at present include; Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The goal of Asian Preparedness Partnership is to improve the preparedness and emergency response to disasters by strengthening the interface between the government and local humanitarian organizations and enhancing capacities through partnerships, information exchange and knowledge resources, trainings, and networking opportunities.