

UNGC Communication on Engagement IPPAG Cooperative Covering January 2016 to April 2018

Part I.

Statement of Continued Support by our Chairman

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the IPPAG Cooperative's continued support for the United Nations Global Compact and renew our organisation's on-going commitment to the initiative and its principles.

The IPPAG Cooperative is committed to behave in a socially and ethically exemplary way and we believe that we are responsible for all the people who take part in the production and support of our products and services worldwide.

The IPPAG Cooperative and its members are committed to a high level of Corporate Citizenship, through our Code of Conduct, our partnership with the United Nations Global Compact Initiative, our Partner Supplier network, our Amfori / BSCI membership and our Social Project: the IPPAG Convergences awards.

Please find below our Communication on Engagement, which demonstrates our intent to continue with our efforts to support the principles of the Global Compact.

Kind Regards,
Mr Thibaut Fontaine
IPPAG Chairman



Parts II. and III.

Description of Actions / Measurement of Outcomes

1) Expanded IPPAG network of member companies:

The IPPAG Cooperative is continuously expanding its network of member companies. All identification, assessment and then integration of new companies is managed on the basis of their capacity to adopt and adhere to the United Nations Guiding Principles and follow the United Nations Global Compact initiative. Internal information and training is provided to make these new companies fully aware of the program and its implications, in parallel to their adoption of our Code of Conduct, our Responsible Sourcing platform, assessment and auditing methodology and Preferred Supplier network.

Outcomes:

- 4 new companies joined our Cooperative in 2016: from Guatemala, Sweden, Russia and Argentina

- 5 new companies joined our Cooperative in 2017: from China, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania and Poland

All companies have therefore also signed IPPAG's Code of Conduct and UNGC commitment policy and have received training as detailed above.

Thus continuing to expand our geographical coverage and influence.

2) IPPAG Partner Supplier network

We encourage our Cooperative members to purchase goods via our established network of Partner Suppliers. These suppliers have been fully assessed and are periodically monitored. Consolidating purchases from our 31 member companies in this way helps to minimise risks and promote compliance in all the countries we are active in. Partner Suppliers are made aware of IPPAG and its members commitment to the UNGC.

Outcomes:

Since January 2016: 14 suppliers who did not meet our criteria and expectations have been excluded from the program and 11 new suppliers have been fully assessed and integrated. Thus continuing to help our member companies operate their purchasing within a trusted and reliable network of suppliers, meeting high standards in terms of compliance and CSR.



3) IPPAG and IPPAG member membership of Amfori (formerly FTA) + BSCI

As of January 2017: IPPAG is a member of Amfori on a central level and acts to coordinate sustainability, CSR and compliance efforts carried out by its individual member companies who are also Amfori members.

We assess and audit our Partner Suppliers using Amfori's BSCI initiative framework and our members also conduct BSCI audits with their individual suppliers.

IPPAG centrally provides BSCI training, awareness, advocacy, support and coordination to its members.

Outcomes:

7 active Amfori / BSCI members in 2017

15 BSCI audits carried out by IPPAG centrally / by members

250+ producers assessed via the BSCI platform

4) Dedicated IPPAG CSR and Sustainability Consultant

In order to increasingly cater to the CSR and Sustainability requirements of our members: IPPAG has put in place a dedicated and specialised consultant, Miss Elin Axxelson. Elin provides expert guidance for all of IPPAG's CSR / Sustainability efforts and also provides direct IPPAG member assistance, helping our organisation and its members to reach higher standards, with harmonised processes, clear communication and shared objectives.

Outcomes:

Harmonised and better coordinated group-wide CSR / Sustainability framework, ref docs and processes + dedicated training and Q&A sessions during all annual meetings.

5) IPPAG support + training:

ie: organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability:

Our 3 x yearly group meetings always include a specific session dedicated to our Responsible Sourcing Program and internal CSR program: directed at Company managers but also and essentially at all company purchasing and sourcing staff.

In addition to our meetings, we have a strong internal network, facilitated by our IT sharing platforms, for all IPPAG purchasing staff: as they act as our 'frontline' being directly concerned by these issues in their day to day tasks. IPPAG provides tools and data to help them to source



IPPAG SHARES



IPPAG EXCHANGES



IPPAG HAS VISION



IPPAG CARES

responsibly, and to integrate the UNGC principles into their processes: by providing guidance and joint framework / processes.

On a smaller scale: regional groups of purchasing / sourcing staff are also in close communication and hold regular joint webinars.

IPPAG also attends global / local annual industry events related to CSR and Sustainability issues: examples: the Amfori annual conference, Asia Inspection Quality workshops, Industry specific Compliance panels (via ASI, PPAI and PSI), etc...

Outcomes:

Strong support system and high levels of exchanges for otherwise 'isolated' purchasing staff. IPPAG acts to facilitate and relay expertise, information and best practices.

6) the IPPAG Convergences Awards

In an effort to 'act more, act better and act differently' and to contribute to offsetting the social impact of our production / importing activities: as of January 2018: IPPAG has implemented a partnership with 'Convergences', an international think-tank focused on advocacy and mobilisation to promote the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a "Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty" world.

Every year, the Convergences Awards reward the best projects initiated by public, private and solidarity-based partners seeking to build a fair and sustainable future.

Award winners receive multiple benefits:

- A financial donation to support their project
- Visibility, networking, support and mentoring

IPPAG is proud to be supporting and sponsoring this years Convergences Awards: This is for projects that are connected to the following UN SGS:



More info on: www.ippag.net/awards

Outcomes:

Coordinated international communication and social media campaign raising awareness about the awards. Applications are now closed and more than 70 projects have been submitted: 22 are eligible for the IPPAG Convergences Awards and address the following UN SDGs:

- SDG 2 : 5 applications
- SDG 3 : 4 applications
- SDG 4 : 5 applications
- SDG 8 : 6 applications
- SDG 11 : 2 applications

The final award winning project will be focused on one of these SDGs and IPPAG will not only support this project with a financial donation, but will also provide custodial support and media exposure.

About the IPPAG Cooperative:

The IPPAG Cooperative is made up of over 30 market leading promotional item wholesalers and distributors spread across the world: www.ippag.net

Mission: *"The Cooperative facilitates its member's common desire to share and grow together within the promotional items industry: gaining in expertise, excellency and efficiency through shared projects, resources and initiatives."*

The IPPAG Cooperative is based in Switzerland, and is run by a general manager, and an elected Board: the current Chairman is Mr Thibaut Fontaine of mcs Kick&Rush in Belgium and the other Board members are the managers of our Swedish, Swiss and Mauritius member companies. With its 30+ members, the companies forming the IPPAG Cooperative have over 2,300 employees around the world, with in-depth experience in a wide range of industries and a combined annual turnover of more than €355 million.



IPPAG in 2018: “IPPAG shares, IPPAG exchanges, IPPAG has vision, IPPAG cares”



Should any more information be required about any of our activities or programs:
Please contact Miss Florence Mosnier, IPPAG Cooperative General Manager:
Florence.mosnier@ippag.net
