

## COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS (COP) 2018/19

### **STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Abena reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is supported by our SA8000 and OHSAS 18001 certificate.

At Abena we continuously want to contribute to minimize the impact on the environment. To be a good role model, we are ISO 14001 and ISO50001 certified.

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.

Abena products are sold around the world through a wide distribution network of subsidiary companies and specialist distributors. Abena has been an active part of the UN Global Compact initiative since 2002 and our support is unchanged.

Sincerely yours,



Preben Terp-Nielsen, CEO

The Abena group is a Danish family-owned company, with a strong and inspiring company culture giving ethics, environmental concern and a solid business acumen pride of place. Abena is among the market leaders in the protective healthcare industry dealing in both trading and production. Our product range covers disposable products such as a wide variety of incontinence products, including baby diapers, sanitary towels and other healthcare-related disposable goods, paper products, plastic bags, nursing products and waste systems. Abena moves the limits for new products and markets through a continuous product development. The focal point being the users' needs and wishes in regard to resources and environmental impact. Therefore, we develop new methods based on the users' needs and involve the users in the development of new innovative products.

This report will be available via [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org).

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## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Global Compact Principle		Actions Taken & Impact Achieved in 2017/18 and plans for 2018/19
Human Rights	1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights;	<p><b>Commitment:</b> Abena supports the international declared human rights. We do not discriminate against any person, regardless of race, sex, colour or religion.</p> <p>We aim to secure employees with reduced working capacity for various social or physical reasons by creating an easier, less pressurised working environment and job flexibility. Our "flexible department" comprises of employees who might, at a later date be transferred to fully functioning ordinary jobs by means of work test trials, on the job training, rehabilitation and trainee agreements.</p> <p><b>System &amp; activities:</b> One of Abena's core values is that we are aware of our social responsibility. Combined with procedures for hiring new employees it ensures no discrimination. We have an employee survey "Voice of Abena" every 1,5 year.</p> <p>Abena Produktion holds a SA8000 certification.</p> <p><b>Outcome and next year:</b> The composition of Abena employees reflects the composition of our local community. We have achieved this in <b>2017/18</b> and will continue for <b>2018/19</b>.</p>
	2: and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.	
Labour	3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;	<p><b>Commitment:</b> Environmental concern in the production process also involves the working environment. We take working conditions extremely seriously, and the Danish Authorities have awarded our main factory the highest official rating available in this area. We aim to maintain a high degree of safety for all employees and visitors. At Abena we constantly strive to improve and be innovative, whilst at the same time maintaining our positive spirit. We respect the fact that all jobs within the company are meaningful and relevant.</p> <p><b>System:</b> "safety comes first", "working should be enjoyable", "information is important" and "education is necessary in order to grow" are 4 of Abena's 7 core values. Furthermore, Abena Produktion holds an OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety) and SA8000 certification.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> We work consciously within our safety department and safety groups to form a comprehensive safety system and to develop a happier and more secure working environment; this includes areas such as ergonomic work stations, in-house gym facilities, massage facilities and membership of the eclectic social club. We encourage all employees to take a free health check minimum every 3 years and we offer a voluntary health insurance at a very good prize. We have our own gym which is now free to use for employees and their families. Our physiotherapist visits all employees and advises them on good working behaviour. This has created synergy and enhanced focus on safety, health and wellbeing.</p>
	4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;	
	5: the effective abolition of child labour;	
	6: and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.	

		<p>Combining efficient and targeted work performance means coming to work each day should be an enjoyable experience. Employees participate in 'job planning' as a team building activity, we believe that this promotes successful teamwork as colleagues actively help each other to reach targets and remind each other of the company's core principles, if and when required.</p> <p><b>Outcome and next year:</b> Abena Produktion A/S is OHSAS 18001 certified and is working on the ISO 45001 Standard for the next year.</p> <p>We have a strategy and vision to bring our work accidents to 0.</p>
Environment	7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;	<p><b>Commitment: At Abena we recognize our environmental responsibility.</b> At Abena, the words "environmental concern" inspires action, not just words. It is one of the main areas of focus in our strategy and a value firmly rooted in our ethos. Therefore, it is as natural to us as the very environment itself to back up our concerns by official certification, such as the Nordic Eco Label "Swan" as well as the international ISO 14001 certificates. Concern for nature goes hand in hand with the caring nature of Abena products. We strive continuously to reduce our waste quantities and production waste by an active quality control. We have set up a goal to reduce our emission of CO<sub>2</sub> with 20% before 2020 compared to 2008.</p> <p><b>System:</b> We reduce the use of energy, chemicals and dangerous substances by means of an efficient energy management and an environmentally friendly evaluation. Our company is certified according to ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 which means that a third party regularly audits our company to see that we reach our goals on reducing our impact on the environment.</p> <p>We continuously work hard to reach our goals regarding waste, energy and vacuum.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> At Abena we keep an environmental balance to constantly know our impact on the environment changes and to be sure to use our efforts where the environment benefits the most.</p> <p><b>Outcome and next year:</b> In 2018/19 we still have focus on waste management and reduction of electricity used per produced unit as we had the year before.</p>
Anti-Corruption	10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.	<p>At Abena we do not accept any kind of corruption. We do not use bribe or extortion in any way.</p> <p>All presents from suppliers are handed in to the management in order to be used as gifts at the New Year's lottery. This divides the presents evenly among employees and does not favour those with many external contacts. Furthermore, the lottery on presents helps the purchase department to be objective when evaluating offers of raw materials.</p>

## Suppliers and partners

Abena products are sold all around the world through a wide distribution network of subsidiary companies and specialist distributors. Bearing this in mind, Abena have proactively suggested and strongly recommend to suppliers and business partners alike that they should live up to and participate in the 10 principles as outlined by the 'UN Global Compact' initiative. We encourage our internal and external customers to participate in the initiative in order to make it an all encompassing success.

In **2017/18** app. 85% of our suppliers signed a support and commitment to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact. The last 15% have other ways of describing their social responsibility and environmental concern.