

## **United Nations Global Compact Communications on Progress (COP) Message from our Chief Executive Officer – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018**

Unilever strongly supports the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Ten Principles and welcomes its recognition of the positive contribution business can make to create a more prosperous and socially and environmentally sustainable world. It sets a critical framework for establishing a culture of integrity, upholding business to meet their responsibilities to people and planet, while setting the stage for long-term value creation. The Communication on Progress (COP) is an important tool of transparency that provides the chance for an internal and external annual evaluation of achievements.

It can be easy to be discouraged in today's world. We face many challenges. Rising inequalities, low trust, runaway climate change and lack of global governance. However, there are also reasons for optimism. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have given us the opportunity to correct our trajectory towards a more sustainable and equitable growth path. The brilliance and elegance of the SDGs is that it covers all aspects of sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth. From peace and prosperity and climate action to education of the next generation and protecting the most vulnerable. To achieve the SDGs, business must be part of the solution. In turn, as the Business and Sustainable Development Commission (BSDC) has shown, delivering the SDGs will unlock market opportunities of up to 12 trillion US dollars a year. It creates new markets, drives growth, reduces operating costs, restores trust, and ultimately future-proofs our businesses.

For Unilever, the SDGs have certainly reaffirmed our own belief in the relevance of the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan (USLP), acting as a further catalyst for our own actions. Now entering its eighth year, the USLP remains our blueprint for sustainable business.

- By providing quality, affordable products, we are making good progress towards our goal of helping more than 1 billion people take action to improve their health and well-being. We have reached over 600 million people since 2010.
- By 2030 our goal is to halve the environmental footprint of the making and use of our products as we grow the business. This covers our entire value chain, from the sourcing of our raw materials and our own manufacturing, through to consumer use and disposal. We already source 56 per cent of our agricultural raw materials sustainably.
- Our third big goal is to enhance the livelihoods of millions of people through our social and economic contributions to many communities through employment, training and advancing human rights.

We continuously review the USLP, challenge ourselves and set new targets. We are making ongoing improvements in the management of our environmental and societal impact and to the longer-term goal of developing a sustainable business. To achieve this, we work in

partnership with others – including government, NGOs and other companies – to create the transformational change needed in today’s world, while also increasing our understanding and sharing of good practice.

Every day, we continue to strive to do business with care for the environment, respect for human and labour rights, and with the highest standard of business integrity.

That is why we are proud to be a founding signatory to the UNGC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Polman', is displayed on a light gray, textured background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

**Paul Polman**  
Chief Executive Officer