

# Communication on Engagement (COE) - The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 2017-2018

## Part I. Statement of continued support by chief executive or equivalent

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) reaffirms its support to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti- Corruption.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions Difi has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication and the general public.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Strømsnes

Chief Procurement officer in Norway

*This document is approved electronically and sent without signature.*

## Part II. Description of actions

The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) aims to strengthen the government's work in renewing the Norwegian public sector and improve the organisation and efficiency of government administration.

As a public agency we receive our mandate from the Norwegian Government and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation. The Agency carries out a lot of different tasks, and relevant for this reporting is mainly the work of the Public Procurement Unit within the Agency.

Difi has supported the UN Global Compact and its ten principles through the following actions:

1. Providing public procurers with guidance on how to work with sustainability in their procurements

It is outlined in Difi's mandate from the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation that Difi shall provide public procurers with guidance on how they can carry out sustainable public procurements. Hereunder, Difi provides guidance for public procurers on how they can take social and environmental responsibility in their procurements. This includes guidelines on how to consider, stipulate and follow up requirements in relation to climate and environment, respect for basic human rights and ILO's core conventions, and pay and working conditions.

In relation to this we have developed and offer different templates and tools for public procurers to make their work with sustainable public procurements easier, such as contract clauses, self-assessment questionnaire and risk management tool on the subjects. In March 2018 we launched a criteria wizard, including formulations for requirements and criteria for environment and social responsibility, and documentation on the requirements that can be stipulated in a procurement process. At the time of reporting, the criteria wizard provides criteria sets for Design- and Design-Build contracts (product area Building and Construction), for light vehicles (product area Transportation), and for waste collection. More product categories, such as food and drink, and hardware, will be included later.

2. Participation and contribution at events and seminars

Difi has participated and contributed at several events where climate and environment, human rights, and/or pay and working conditions have been the subjects. For instance, Difi has participated at different climate conferences in different parts of Norway, The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise's (NHO) annual procurement conference, and ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability- conference.

At these events and seminars Difi has contributed as a speaker or course instructor.

3. Cooperation with other organizations on Global Compact related issues

We cooperate with Ethical Trading Initiative Norway (IEH), and together we have developed standard contract clauses on respect for basic human rights, ILO's core conventions and national labour legislation at the production place. These are to be used by public procurers in their procurements of goods, and available for everyone at our website

4. Arranging seminars and courses on topics related to UN Global Compact's principles

We facilitate seminars, network meetings and courses on the subjects climate and environment, human rights, and pay and working conditions, in public procurements. The targeted audience are public procurers, and other people working with public procurement, such as environment/sustainability- or subject coordinators.

On our annual Public Procurement Conference with over 700 attending, climate and environment, human rights, pay and working conditions, in public procurement have been important themes the last two years.

5. Eco-Lighthouse certificated

We promote environmental responsibility within our organization, and Difi is Eco-Lighthouse certificated. Being an Eco-lighthouse enterprise involves working towards satisfying requirements and implementing environmental measures on a systematic and ongoing basis in order to create more environmentally friendly operations and safer work environments.

### Norwegian Central Procurement Body (CPB)

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 Norway established a new Central Procurement Body (CPB), which is a part of Difi. The CPB shall make and administer state framework contracts. The state buys goods and services for 213 billion NOK per year. The CPB makes contracts in areas with large volume and where the needs of the businesses are similar.

In relevant procurements the CPB stipulates requirements on social responsibility, such as respect for basic human rights, ILO's core conventions and national labour legislation at the production place. Furthermore, The CPB does in planning and carrying out the procurements take into consideration environmental aspects, and stipulate requirements on climate and environment where relevant. Examples on procurements where this have been done are consumables, cell-phones and computers. The CPB contributes to promoting green procurement through facilitating better compliance with the rules for public procurement. Using digital procurement solutions, the CPB helps to reduce the use of resources in both state entities and suppliers.

### Part III. Measurements of outcomes

Difi does not at the time of reporting have good enough statistics about the outcomes of our guidance for public enterprises on how to carry out social and environmental responsible procurements.

However, the work we do with guiding public procurers in how they can stipulate and follow up requirements on human rights, pay and working conditions, and environmental and climate aspects in their contract can be presumed to have an effect in the long run. The surveys that have been carried out on this, show that there is a positive trend, and more public enterprises are stipulating requirements on human rights and the environment in their procurements now than earlier. Moreover, our focus in the future is to work further with statistics and measuring the effects of our work.