



ACTED

H.E. António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Paris, February 8th, 2019

Subject: Commitment letter to the UN Global Compact

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that ACTED supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we reaffirm our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following ways: engage companies in Global Compact-related issues, join and/or propose partnership project related to corporate sustainability, uphold Global Compact's ten principles throughout its intervention, and particularly when engaging with private sector stakeholders, engage with Global Compact local networks and participate in Global Compact global and local events

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. Unfortunately, due to recent changes in our internal structure and staff responsibilities, such communication could not be submitted yet, however, I have hereby attached a COE covering the period from January 2016 to December 2018, for which we welcome any feedback. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Yours Sincerely,

Marie-Pierre CALEY
ACTED CEO

Encl:
- ACTED Communication on Engagement



This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

ACTED Communication on Engagement (COE)

Covering the period from January 2016 to December 2018

Part I. Statement of Continued Support

To all stakeholders,

I am pleased to express ACTED's continued support to the UN Global Compact initiative, and reaffirm the organisation's commitment to its ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption. ACTED recognizes the importance the private sector can play in supporting societal change, and strongly believes that, for the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, civil society, public and private actors but also academics and the media should work together. To this end, ACTED welcomes the UN Global Compact initiative to catalyze collective action and revitalize the global partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this framework, you will find attached further details on the actions that ACTED has taken to champion the Sustainable Development Goals and supported the UN Global Compact principles over the period from January 2016 to December 2018. We welcome any feedback, and commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,

Marie-Pierre CALEY
ACTED CEO

Part II. Description of actions

Since 2015, ACTED has been a member of the UN Global Compact, fostering synergies and innovative partnerships with the private sector, and undertaking strategic actions towards the promotion, deployment and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in Europe, as well as throughout its countries of operation. Throughout its interventions, ACTED often engages with the private sector, either through strategic partnerships with companies or private companies foundations, ongoing mobilisation and reflection with private sector actors, or private sector development efforts in developing economies (with a focus on small businesses, micro entrepreneurs and small holder farmers).

In fact, throughout its interventions, ACTED stimulates entrepreneurship and supports MSMEs to participate in the formal economy, including through provision of business advisory and financial services and advocating for an enabling business environment. While doing so, ACTED also promotes the UN global compact ten principles. For example, in Sri Lanka, ACTED supported more than 3,500 vulnerable and extremely poor individuals to start an own business through the provision of business start-up grants business plan development, business management, technical and marketing training. Such training also included workshops on employee rights / equal employment opportunities, as well as on environmentally sustainable production and consumption (SPC) practices. A number of these micro-enterprises experienced rapid growth and ACTED supported 40 of them to convert their existing entrepreneurial potential into innovative and successful SME business activities and thus promoted local pro-poor development. Through business advisory and financial services, all targeted SMEs achieved an increase of at least 25% in annual turnover and created almost 400 new, formal employment opportunities. Best practices from this successful example have been replicated in other countries, so as to support more MSMEs/SMEs throughout 2016 – 2018. These SMEs can then in turn become interesting partners for specific projects (either in projects requiring private sector involvement, or to link with vocational training or local development interventions), or be further integrated in ACTED's market based approach (through either local procurement / services contracted by ACTED, or through voucher based systems, or more generally benefitting from cash injections done by ACTED in the local economy).

Further, ACTED implemented interventions aiming at improving awareness on labour rights and encouraging labour law compliance amongst employers and employees: for example, in Cambodia, from 2014 to 2017, ACTED developed a certification mechanism for businesses in the entertainment industry to be certified as "worker friendly" upon their adherence to a code of conduct, and provided training to 345 entertainment establishment owners on labour law, thereby fostering the UN global compact principles.

Throughout 2016 to 2018, ACTED has also built partnerships with more than 10 private companies and foundations, implementing projects supporting SDGs achievement. For example, over this period, ACTED implemented a project aiming at improving water supply in target municipalities in Lebanon, with the support of a private foundation as well as other institutional donors, thereby efficiently leveraging partnerships to reach SDG 6 "clean water and sanitation". At the global level, ACTED also supported and participated in Convergences World Forum, a yearly event aiming to encourage the co-construction of partnerships and innovative solution around Sustainable Development Goals, gathering about 5,000 people, mostly professionals. In 2017, ACTED also launched the 3Zero alliance, calling upon civil society, public and private actors but also academics, media, etc. to act for a "Zero Exclusion, Zero Poverty and Zero Carbon" world, for the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved.

Furthermore, throughout all its actions, ACTED aims to support local communities and contribute to social and environmental sustainability, while preventing the risk of harm to local communities and upholding its fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, in line with the UN Global Compact. To support this approach, ACTED has strong internal policies (such as a Child Protection policy, a Policy Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, an Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy, etc) which aim to eliminate the risk of poor human rights practices, and require its partners to similarly uphold the highest standards of conduct. ACTED also recognizes that its activities may change the way people use and rely on the environment, or may affect or be affected by environmental conditions. As part of its global strategic program framework, ACTED recognizes the need to promote environmental



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sustainability and prevent environmental degradation, and thus promotes sustainable and eco-friendly growth within its programming. Through the global alliance for Zero Exclusion, Zero Poverty and Zero Carbon, ACTED has further confirmed its commitment to promoting positive environmental impact towards external stakeholders but also within its own organization, operations & practices. As such, ACTED has developed an environmental safeguard policy, and has launched a Carbon Footprint Baseline in 2018, with the objective to reduce its ecological impact.

Part II. Measurement of outcomes

- Projects towards SDGs implemented with the support of 10+ corporate partners
- 100,000 + vulnerable people supported through income generation / wealth creation activities
- ACTED's internal policies have been updated, in line with the principles also figuring under the Global Compact including environment, child protection and anti-corruption measures.
- Participation in / support to Convergences annual forum (average of 5,000 participants) and launch of global "3 Zero" alliance, fostering inclusive, cross sector partnerships to achieve SDGs