

**UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement (COE)
Statement of Continued Support**

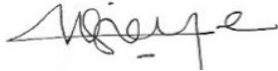
From: JULY 2017 To: JULY 2019

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Initiative for Global Development (IGD) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Leila Ndiaye
President & CEO

Part II: Description of Actions

The Initiative for Global Development (IGD) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to advise, educate, and forge partnerships between the U.S. and African private sectors for sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

IGD positions itself as the leading voice and advocate for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) investing in Africa, as well as SMEs and entrepreneurs on the continent. Its programming and policy engagements advance a business-driven development agenda and organizational priorities that focus on elevating youth and women entrepreneurs.

IGD facilitates events that bring public and private sector leaders together to draw attention to trade and investment opportunities, and develops programming that educates and benefits underserved populations in Africa in order to level the playing field and ensure economic success.

In the past few years, IGD has hosted several high-level events to advance their mission, partnering with development organizations such as the African Development Bank to be able to impact wider populations.

Since its membership into the UN Global Compact, IGD has looked to further involve itself in projects that pertain to the overarching ten principles and can advance some of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Particularly, IGD has committed through its programming these past few years to the following SDGs: 1) No poverty, 5) Gender equality, 8) Decent work and economic growth, and 10) Reduced inequalities. Below are a few examples of actions that have been taken by IGD to further advance its commitment to the Global Compact's values.

Since 2013, and continuing through the past two years, IGD has partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation's [YieldWise Initiative](#), a multi-year program that seeks to cut total food loss in Africa in half by 2030. With support from the Rockefeller Foundation, IGD has convened several workshops to bring together government representatives with local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both the Tanzanian maize and Kenyan mango value chains. The purpose of these workshops was to improve SMEs' access to finance, and help them both maximize their crop yields and identify markets where the small holder farmers can find success, thus elevating themselves and their communities.

Leadership for Agriculture (L4Ag) is another ongoing program that IGD oversees, hosted by the African Development Bank and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. It is an African ministerial-level peer-to-peer network that promotes strategic engagement and policy action among African ministers, private sector and other stakeholders to increase commitment to investing in agriculture with the goal of spurring sector growth, economic development and employment, especially among youth. There was one of these such Forums in 2017, and three in 2018, each attracting between 150 and 300 people committed to advancing the agricultural sector in Africa.

IGD organizes its annual meetings (Frontier 100 Forums) to be on the sidelines of the World Bank Spring and Fall meetings in Washington, D.C. The latest iteration of the F100 Forum was on April 10-11, 2019, and its theme was "Unlocking Intra-African Trade through SME Business Growth and Development." It attracted over 150 attendees who came to listen to various panelists and speakers address various topics related to the theme of the conference. One such panel was titled "Supporting Africa's Growth and Development Agenda," and panelists including Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi (Secretary General of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development) and Dr. Vera Songwe (Executive Secretary of the U.N. Commission for Africa) gave their thoughts on Africa's current growth trajectory. Another such panel, "Women and Youth: Improving Access to Resources and Skills to Spur SME-Led Business Growth," which included Priya Basu (Head of Women's Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) at the World Bank)

and Zouera Youssoufou (Managing Director & CEO of the Aliko Dangote Foundation), was all about ways to elevate female and youth education and employment opportunities on the continent in order to create more economically viable enterprises and grow overall economic success.

In partnership with the Afropop Worldwide, IGD also helped conceive and produce the “Making Farming Cool” podcast which through music and interviews aims to inspire and inform the youth to pursue careers and entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry, a sector that many of the emerging youth population stereotypes as an “uncool” profession. The podcast interviews several farmers and experts alike, who all discuss how the narrative is changing surrounding careers in agriculture, especially as the growing youth populations can integrate their interests and expertise in business and technology into the industry.

IGD has also hosted Executive Business Roundtables in the past year for the Presidents of Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Central African Republic, as well as the Prime Ministers of Mali and Ivory Coast. Each of these events were an opportunity to address trade and investment opportunities in the countries with interested private sector leaders, in the hope of increasing American and African bilateral trade. Central to these discussions was addressing the creation of education and employment opportunities in these countries, especially for the underrepresented female and youth populations.

Part III: Measurement of Actions

Out of the first L4Ag event came a [comprehensive report](#) that details the event and concrete plans moving forward to develop production, educate and train small-holder farmers, and increase overall economic success for all in the industry. The reports from the 2018 meetings are being finalized and will be released soon as progress gets made to implement .

There are (thus far) over 2000 combined listens and downloads on the finished Afropop “Making Farming Cool!” podcast series.

<https://afropop.org/articles/making-farming-cool>

<https://afropop.org/audio-programs/making-farming-cool-agco-trains-next-generation-managers-in-agribusiness>

After the Frontier 100 Forum, discussions with panelists (especially those on the Women and Youth panel) and attendees led to the creation of a high-level forum that will be in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly this coming September called the “U.S.-Africa Women’s Economic Forum.” The goal will be to bring attention to the need for increased public and private sector action to empower women in conflict and post-conflict regions in Africa. During this Forum, IGD will also implement a new program designed to empower these women through business development, business training, mentorship, and health knowledge to overcome the challenges they face. Prominent experts will explore this subject and make comprehensive recommendations for public and private sector actions.