

**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement**

From: 30 October 2017 To: 30 October 2019

**Part I. Statement of Continued Support**

To our stakeholders

I am pleased to confirm that the WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (WFOT) reaffirms it 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 organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Marilyn Pattison

President

World Federation of Occupational Therapists

**About the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)**

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) directly links 101 member organisations across the world, with an individual membership of in excess of 29,000 therapists and a national organisation membership that represents over 550,000 occupational therapists internationally.

WFOT promotes occupational therapy as an art and science internationally. The Federation supports the development, use and practice of occupational therapy worldwide, demonstrating its relevance and contribution to society.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) has been a signatory to the UN GLOBAL COMPACT since 2007. WFOT’s programme and project plans are required to be aligned with the Principles before they are approved by the Executive.

For more information, go to [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org)

|  |
| --- |
| WFOT is committed to ongoing support of the UN GLOBAL COMPACT and its Principles.  The following information presents the key activities of WFOT in support of the Global Compact, and the related outcomes. |

**Part II. Description of Actions**

and

**Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OVERALL ACTIONS TO SUPPORT AND ENGAGE WITH THE GLOBAL COMPACT** | **Comment**  **(described in more detail below)** |
| Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact through outreach and awareness raising. | Supporting the development of occupational therapy associations and education programmes internationally – in the reporting period, six (6) occupational therapy associations (majority from middle to low economy countries) were admitted as Full Members of WFOT. In addition, six (6) new occupational therapy associations were admitted as Associate Members of WFOT. WFOT is working with these Associate Members to develop and approve an occupational therapy education programme in each of these countries. |
| Organising learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability. | Information included in Focus Day 2018 Induction presentation; UN Global Compact Bulletins published on WFOT website [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) poster and promotion at WFOT events and presentations. Information included in WFOT Congress 2018, attended by approximately 3000 international delegates. |
| Engaging members in collective action efforts on Global Compact-related issues. | Regular communications with members. Recruiting experts for projects/development of position statements/etc from international membership. Council Meeting 2018 attended by 95 international delegates - agenda papers and reports all address Global Compact, SDGs and related issues. Over 80 projects were approved at this Council Meeting, all including reference to SDGs and Global Compact to promote alignment of WFOT’s work with SDGs and Global Compact. |
| Other actions to support the Global Compact to engage with the initiative. | WFOT business practices support sustainability including: paperless meetings; documents provided electronically rather than hard copy; risk management procedures in place; attention to governance; Position Statements addressing related issues. Financial support for Delegates to attend Council Meetings, Congress. |
| **Part II. Description of Actions** | **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes** |
| **PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT – WFOT *Actions (Projects and Activities)*, inclusive of indicative Member Organisation Activities, 2017 - 2019** | **Outcomes** |
| **Human Rights** |  |
| **Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** |  |
| SDGs and Occupational Therapy Links: Master Plan | In Progress – WFOT is developing a master plan addressing links with occupational therapy and the SDGs. |
| Master Plan on Human Rights | Ongoing - to ensure that WFOT activities, resources and documents support the WHO Human Rights agenda. |
| Position Statement on Human Rights | Completed – The 2006 version has been reviewed, updated and endorsed. This revised 2019 version is in the process of being published on the WFOT website at www.wfot.org |
| Position Statement on Humanitarian Crises | In Progress – working party are developing a Position Statement on Humanitarian Crises. |
| Restructure of WFOT | Ongoing - Executive programme is now changed to Leadership and Advocacy, reflecting WFOTs leadership globally, including addressing SDGs, Global Compact, and global issues. |
| UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons | In Progress – WFOT working party established. |
| WHO-Curriculum Guidelines on Rehabilitation and Human Rights | Ongoing - contributing to and commenting on draft documents. |
| WHO-Disability & Rehabilitation | Ongoing - communicating with WHO; contributing to draft documents and responding to requests from DAR - completed many related actions in the reporting period.  WFOT was represented at meetings/ discussions with WHO including:   * Rehabilitation 2030 * World Health Assembly Meeting * WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases meetings/listserves * Framework of Rehabilitation Services * Global Research, Innovation, and Education in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit * Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Forum * Consensus Meeting: top 50 APL (assistive disability products) * Collaborating Centres, Professional Organizations and Organizations in Official Relations with the Disability and Rehabilitation Team * WHO Regional Committee for Europe; PAHO * WHO National Rehabilitation Situation Assessment Tool * WHO Ministerial Meeting on Health Employment and Economic Growth * WHO Dialogue on Mobilizing International Cooperation on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) * WHO Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE) * and listserve * Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health (Bone and Joint Decade) * WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting * Global Rehabilitation Alliance (GRA) * Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) * Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT) Consultation |
| Liaison with UN and its agencies; WHO; international NGOs; other relevant organisations | Ongoing - includes reporting as required; responding to direct communications; initiating contact/partnerships as appropriate; communications to promote occupational therapy. New MOUs/working relationships established with 3 international NGOs during this reporting period. |
| Strategic Plan – 2019 - 2024 | In Progress – previous masterplan completed; new master plan agreed in 2018, implemented in 2019 and will be regularly reviewed for progress towards achievement of goals. |
| WHO School Health Services guideline development group (GDG) | Completed – WFOT nominated expert occupational therapists to this group. |
| Developing the occupational therapy profession in Non-Member Countries | Ongoing –WFOT has established a project team to review and update related documentation. |
|  |  |
| Review of Membership Fees & Consideration of Revenue | Ongoing - engaging with WFOT Member Organisations to ensure participation, continuing to offer the ‘Premium Pricing Model’ option (lower member fees). |
| Information Technology Review | Ongoing - to ensure communication with Members and the public, with accessible technologies. Social media formats expanded including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube. OTION forum and new website completed |
| Master Plan Mental Health | Ongoing – includes liaison with WHO (Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Forum. |
| WFOT Bulletin | Ongoing - WFOT's professional journal, published in 4 languages.  Bulletin management & delivery processes are fully online and accessible to members internationally.  Articles and themes support and promote human rights e,g.  Completed:   * Practicing across cultures. Published online June 2019, * The role of occupational therapists in working with immigrants, displaced persons and refugees. Published online November 2018. |
| Indigenous Cultural Integrity | Ongoing - International Advisory Group established. Online forum, the Global Network of Indigenous Occupational Therapists (GNIOT) is being established which will assist in guiding the WFOTs policies and actions on indigenous issues. |
| Sponsored Membership to WFOT | Ongoing - support to ensure appropriate and accessible membership to WFOT |
| Establishment of the Indigenous Occupational Therapy Advisory Group to WFOT | Ongoing – Advisory group involved in relevant projects. See Indigenous Cultural Integrity above. |
| International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) Lobby Strategy | Ongoing - WFOT has had several communications with ILO.  Completed - WFOT Lobbying Strategy developed; Lobbying Kit distributed to Member Organisations to support lobbying programme. |
| Maintain an Updated list of WFOT Approved Educational programmes | Ongoing - New website facilities ensure accurate & up-to-date information on WFOT approved education programmes (over 1,000). |
| Review Curricula for Approval or Re-approval | Ongoing – has been a major focus for WFOT following the revision of the WFOT Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists (MSEOT Revised 2016), and in preparation for the introduction of the new WFOT website, launched in June 2019. |
| Respond to Education Related Queries | Ongoing - it is a priority to respond to education enquiries, and to support education programmes. WFOT continues to prioritise supporting Member Organisations; national organisations applying for WFOT recognition of their education programmes; graduates from occupational therapy education programmes, and students wishing to study occupational therapy. |
| Develop a global directory of bridging/transition education programmes in occupational therapy | Completed – survey of bridging programmes. No further action. |
| Maintain a web based directory of journals and publications | Ongoing - information is updated regularly. |
| Draft a WFOT Policy/System for Endorsing and Assigning Units to Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Activities | Reviewed – original project found to be not viable within current resources. |
| Review, Update and Standardize Format of Education-Related WFOT Documents | In Progress – documents are currently being updated in line with the WFOT MSEOT Revision 2016 (see below). |
| Revise the Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists | Completed - – revision of the WFOT Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists (MSEOT Revised 2016) was completed in 2016. The embedding of human rights is a key feature of this version of the WFOT MSEOT, in both the philosophy of the MSEOT and document content, reflecting in particular WFOT’s commitment to support and promote the focus of the World Health Organization (WHO) on human rights in the international health agenda. |
| Develop a Position Statement on Ethical International Fieldwork | Completed – PS ‘Ethics, Sustainability and Global Experiences’; WFOT Student Guide for International Practice Placements |
| Implement the Certification Programme for Prospective WFOT Curriculum Evaluators | In Progress - evaluation team recruited; online training programme being developed. |
| Students’ Perspectives of Their Preparation for Global Placement and Practice in Occupational Therapy | Completed and published on WFOT website, free of charge. |
| Scope of Practice – 1-2 Case Studies in Mental Health | In Progress - Position Statement on Occupational Therapy & Mental Health has been developed, now in approval process. |
| Scope of Practice- Position Statement on Geriatrics | Completed - Occupational Therapy in End of Life Care (2016) Position Statement completed and published. WFOT supporting WHO ageing /life course initiatives. |
| Excellence in Occupational Therapy Practice - Review the use of Quality Indicator’s in Occupational Therapy | Completed - Report produced for WFOT Council. Project in progress to pilot, with the aim of developing an accessible resource. |
| Role of Professional Associations in Monitoring Practice | Completed – Position Statement on Role of Professional Occupational Therapy Organisations in Monitoring Practice (2019) endorsed and published. |
| Online Global Community of Occupational Therapy | Ongoing – Occupational Therapy International Online Network (OTION), available at otion.wfot.org Discussion forums include: Education; Practice; Research; Students; Working in another country; Studying in another country. |
| Member Organisation Research Plan in Health, Education, and Society (MORPHES) | Reviewed – project discontinued |
| Review of WFOT Code of Ethics | Completed – including referencing United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights. |
| Development of Guidelines and Procedures to Evaluate Code of Ethics | Completed |
| International Advisory Group- Social Media – Communication & Position Statement | Completed - Use of Social Media (2016) Position Statement completed. |
| Master Plan - Education | In Progress - regularly reviewed for progress towards achievement of goals. |
| Develop a web-based certification programme for prospective WFOT educational programme evaluators | In Progress - developing on online module or self-directed module to cover countries that don’t have a good internet connection. |
| Research External Arm- Identify strategic priorities for research | Completed – expert group established, initial project completed. Global Research priorities have been published. |
| Translate official WFOT documents and other pertinent material message into French, Spanish, German and other non-English languages when requested | Ongoing - WFOT documents/material are regularly translated into French, Spanish, German; on request translated into Portuguese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Italian |
| Disaster Preparedness and Response | Completed – July 2018, WFOT signs MoU with ‘Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)’  Ongoing – Letters of support provided for occupational therapists following disaster in country, and to Health Minister of affected country (includes: 2019 – Bahamas re Hurricane; India re floods; Malawi & Zimbabwe following Cyclone  2018 – Indonesia re tsunami & earthquake; Greece re wildfires; USA re wildfires. |
| Sustainable Occupational Therapy Practice | Completed - Sustainability Matters: Guiding Principles for Sustainability in Occupational Therapy Practice, Education and Scholarship (2018).  In Progress – plan to actively promote in Member Organisations. Theme of WFOT Bulletin edition, 2020. |
| Focus Session 2018 | Completed - March 2018 - To promote long term planning and discussion amongst Delegates to ensure that the WFOT is meeting and continues to meet the needs of its member organisations and the occupational therapists they represent.  In Progress - planning for Focus Session 2020 |
| Occupational Therapy Education Programmes - address the Human Rights and employment needs of Special Populations. | In Progress - as part of the Master Plan Education, curricula. |
| Liaison with UN and its agencies; WHO; international NGOs; other relevant organisations | Ongoing - includes reporting as required; responding to direct communications; initiating contact/partnerships as appropriate; communications to promote occupational therapy. New MOUs/working relationships established with 3 international NGOs during this reporting period. |
| Governance; financial and operational management | Ongoing - integral to operations, programmes, plans and future of WFOT. Reviewed officially at annual Executive Management Team Meetings, and every two years at Council Meeting. |
| Awards Programme: recognition for contribution to the profession/WFOT, and professional excellence | Ongoing - awards presented at Council Meeting (2 years) and/or Congress (4 years). WFOT Thelma Cardwell Foundation Award for Research, which supports further research and/or scholarship in occupational therapy, has been reviewed and will be awarded in a 2 year cycle. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| WFOT Member Organisations, with a focus on human rights for people with disabilities and disadvantage, are engaged in activities which support WFOT objectives and projects, including: advocacy to national governments; association governance policies, development /review of codes of ethics, strategic plans, position statements, conferences and educational events, and operational procedures to support and promote human rights, occupational justice. WFOT invited Member Organisations to contribute to the WHO Quality Rights E-Consultation - Good Practices of Community-Based Mental; and virtual consultation on the Global Strategy on Digital Health.  WFOT Member Organisations continue to consult on and monitor the development of new education programmes in-country – for approval by WFOT, all curricula must address Human Right, Inclusive Education, etc.  WFOT project plans approved by Member Organisation Delegates at Council Meetings are all linked to SDGs. |  |
|  |  |
| **Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Review of Constitutions of National Occupational Therapy organisations applying for membership of WFOT. | WFOT Executive review all constitutions on application. Assist applicants to develop appropriate constitutions. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Participation in national events including cultural and gender diversity; participation in national human rights forums/committees; association policies and position statements on human rights; educational events; monitoring association operations. |  |
|  |  |
| **Labour Standards** |  |
| **Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Review of Membership Fees & Consideration of Revenue | Ongoing, reviewed annually at Executive Management Team meetings; evaluated at Council Meeting, every second year |
| Support to Member Organisations | On request, provides support to Member Organisations e.g. letters to government on classification, employment conditions etc. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Policies for free association of members; industrial relations and collective bargaining support for members. Liaising with government departments on specific issues. |  |
|  |  |
| **Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Human Rights and Occupational Justice to be imbedded in WFOT procedures and documents | Ongoing – e.g. In WFOT Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists; Position Statements  In progress – review of WFOT Position Statement on Ethical Recruitment. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Advocacy for elimination of forced and compulsory labour, in the national context |  |
|  |  |
| **Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As Above |
| WFOT Human Resources Project | Ongoing – The WFOT HR Project reports on Member Organisations and global information on migration, retention and labour shortages. These reports are published every second year (commencing 2006) at [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org) |
| UN NGO Committee on Migration - Survey on Migrant and Refugee Victims of Xenophobia and Intolerance | Completed – WFOT responded to this survey. |
| WHO/NGO Job advertisements | Ongoing – WFOT posts international job advertisements from WHO and a range of NGOs, free of charge, on the WFOT website www.wfot. org |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Supporting labour rights; making submissions to national governments on many policies, based on the principles of access, equity, efficiency, quality and sustainability; association operational procedures e.g. privacy, diversity; inclusion; position statements highlighting the importance of availability and accessibility of opportunity for “occupations” for all people of all ages, with a range of abilities and a range of chronic or episodic conditions. |  |
|  |  |
| **Environment** |  |
| **Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Disaster Preparedness and Response | Ongoing – WFOT Guide for Occupational Therapy First Responders published, free of charge. |
| Sustainable Occupational Therapy Practice | Completed - Sustainability Matters: Guiding Principles for Sustainability in Occupational Therapy Practice, Education and Scholarship (2018).  In Progress – plan to actively promote in Member Organisations. |
| **Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Sustainable Occupational Therapy Practice | Completed - Sustainability Matters: Guiding Principles for Sustainability in Occupational Therapy Practice, Education and Scholarship (2018).  In Progress – plan to actively promote in Member Organisations. |
| WFOT Executive and Council Meetings, and Congress | Ongoing –for reducing the amount of printed material at meetings (e.g. use of data projection instead of printing meeting papers; website for general information); and at Congress by providing alternative of Congress app, website. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Promoting sustainable health care; advocating for the integration of ecological determinants of health into population health legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks that contribute to ecologically sustainable and healthy communities and societies; participation in disaster preparedness and response; operational procedures including recycling initiatives. |  |
|  |  |
| **Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology | Completed – WFOT endorsed and published the Position Statement ‘Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology’. Published the WFOT Development Paper – Results from the Assistive Technology Surveys 2017; Global indicators of assistive technology use amongst occupational therapists- Report of WFOT's Global Surveys |
| WHO Assistive Technology Consultation | Completed - WFOT completed the ATscale (WHO Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE) Wheelchair Product Narrative Consultation.  Ongoing – actively contributing to WHO Assistive Technology projects; attending relevant meetings (see above - Section 1 Human Rights, WHO-Disability & Rehabilitation, Meetings/discussions. |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Meetings conducted via Skype and other technologies; educational events held in virtual environments; position papers e.g. Telehealth; promoting the use of technologies and software for therapist, client and community use; consideration of environmentally friendly aspects and energy-efficiency in association purchases. |  |
| **Principle 10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.** |  |
| ***WFOT Actions (Projects and Activities)*** | As above |
| Review of WFOT Code of Ethics | Completed – including referencing United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights. |
| Development of Guidelines and Procedures to Evaluate Code of Ethics | Completed – for use by Member Organisations |
| Promote discussions on global recruitment and related practice issues | Ongoing – via online forum - OTION (Occupational Therapy International Online Network) at otion.wfot.org |
| Promote professional standards | Completed – Position Statement published ‘Role of Professional Occupational Therapy Organisations in Monitoring Practice’ |
| ***WFOT Member Organisations*** |  |
| Support anti-corruption organisations; national Codes of Ethics; antitrust policies; association corporate governance procedures; transparency, accountability and best practices to avoid corruption; monitoring and supervision. |  |