

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

ADDIS ABABA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS (AACCSA)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: two years

From October 2017 to September 2019

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

To our Members and Stakeholders

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

Re: Communication of Engagement

I am pleased to confirm that Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA) 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 have described the activities that our organization has taken in the past two years starting from September 2017 to September 2019 to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for business associations. We also commit to sharing this information with our members and stakeholders using our primary channels of communication such as our newspaper, television program, and website.

Sincerely yours,


Getachew Regassa
Secretary General



Part II and III. Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

AACCSA has undertaken numerous actions that support the UN Global Compact principles in the past two years. Some of the major activities conducted in line with these principles include the following:

1. AACCSA has been partnering with DI to establish the UN Global Compact network in Ethiopia. As part of this project, AACCSA sent 6 team members drawn from various departments for experience sharing from September 2-6, 2019, among other things, to share experience from Danish Global Compact Network which represents 330 companies. The team has taken lessons, including but not limited to, the need to create awareness on UNGC to AACCSA's member companies so that they can implement the principles in their operation and the need to establish a local network. As a result of this, it started taking actions to create awareness about the Global Compact to its members.
2. AACCSA took part in the national "Green Legacy" initiative that took on July 30/2019 by planting trees in Addis Ababa. The initiative is part of sustainable environmental protection activity the country is taking and more than 350m trees have been planted in a day. In addition to this, as part of activities of environmental protection, AACCSA held a half-day workshop in cooperation with Enterprise Partners on November 21, 2017, on the topic of "The role of finance in the green economy in Ethiopia". At the workshop, 24 participants from banks, insurances, and from different financial institutions have attended. The Chamber undertakes research and advocacy activities on a regular basis and influence policymakers. Environmental related research had been conducted as part of its advocacy activity with the title "Prospects and Challenges of Industrial Zone Development". The research is published on Addis Chamber Journal of Trade and Business and distributed to businesses, government offices and NGOs. The journal covers topics on business and global compact principles.
3. In cooperation with The Confederation of Danish Industry (DI), AACCSA organized a conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from 20-21 June 2019 under the theme "**SDG for Business Conference**" with the purpose of turning the SDGs from paper into practice. During the conference, UNGC Network Kenya, Kenyan Association of Manufacturers (KAM), local businesses and NGOs share their tangible experiences to participants of the event. More than 500 participants have attended the conference and took lessons on putting SDGs into their business operation. A special magazine "Turning the SDGs from Paper into Practice" is published and distributed to participants. The conference benefited businesses to reconsider implementing SDGs in their operation.
4. AACCSA supported the UN Global Compact labor principles, first and foremost, by enacting Human Resource Manual which stipulates not to use, be complicit in, or benefit

from forced labor. Moreover, the Manual states about employment contract that indicates terms and conditions of service, voluntary nature of employment, and freedom to live. AACCSA also supports the effective abolition of labor since it prohibits employing persons less than 14 years of age. In addition to this, it provides training on **Labor Relations Management** through its Training Institute. In the past two years, the training has been conducted three times from 19/3/18- 23/3/18, 10/6/2019-14/6/2019, and 17/6/2019-14/6/2019. With this activity, 58 male and 23 female who came from different private and public organizations have benefited.

5. Anti-corruption compliance program is one of the prominent actions AACCSA is taking in realizing UNGC principles on a regular basis. In the past two years, AACCSA has provided subsequent intensive training and awareness-raising workshops on **Anti-corruption Compliance** in cooperation with its partner Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and thereby galvanized businesses to take action against corruption. The detail of the workshop and training is as follows:

- Two awareness creating workshops were conducted on the topic of “Mitigating corruption risk on Business Enterprises” on April 9, 2019, and May 21, 2019, where 18 participants and 23 participants have attended respectively.
- Training on Anti-Corruption and Compliance was conducted on October 9 & 10, 2018 jointly with the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Comesa Business Council, where 64 participants have attended.
- A two- days training (October 26 & 27, 2017) was given to 50 participants were drawn from business organizations involved in the global value chain on the topic of “Mitigating corruption risks for businesses in global value chains”. Participants of the training got exposure to the importance of anti-corruption compliance for sustainable business and building an ethical organizational culture. Similar training was given on the same topic for two days on August 27 & 28, 2018 to 42 participants.

In the effort to combat corruption at the national level, AACCSA collaborates with the Federal Anti-Corruption Commission representing the private sector in the Commission and submits a report on a regular basis. Moreover, the Commission provided an awareness-raising workshop on anti-corruption for AACCSA members.

In addition to this, ACCSA has provided numerous training on Corporate Governance principles and accepted standards in collaboration with International Finance Corporation (IFC) with the fund obtained from Private Sector Development Hub (PSD Hub). The training and workshops were conducted to promote responsible business practice by educating businesses on corporate governance principles and sharing the best international practices. Moreover, AACCSA has organized a consultation meeting on Best Practices in Corporate Governance in Emerging Market with the collaboration of Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) where 60 participants from stakeholders and AACCSA’s staffs have attended.