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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement
From: January 2018 to October 2019

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

Statement of Continued Support by the Secretary General

October 17, 2019

Dear Excellency,

I am pleased to confirm that the Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER) 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.

Yours sincerely,



Kari Aina Eik
Secretary General OiER
Leader U4SSC Implementation Programme

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Part II. Description of Actions

Our Vision

To play an active part in the global community promoting development, new technologies, specialized services and products for sustainable solutions putting people first.

About OiER

For the past 70 years, the Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER) – based in Vienna/Austria – has been successfully building and expanding a worldwide network for business, technology, science and government and has been a pioneer in the development and promotion of economic processes and international cooperation.

Established in 1947, as an international NGO and business platform to promote peace and international cooperation through economic development, OiER has grown to become a global platform for business, financial institutions, corporate entities, academic institutions, NGOs, scientific communities and governments. With its wide variety of members - corporate entities, business associations, international organizations and NGOs - from more than 80 countries, OiER acts as an advisory and intermediary service organization that supports information exchange and analyses, identifying opportunities, matchmaking, and investment facilitation.

During the last decade, private corporations around the world have increasingly started to get involved in local and global causes. In today's world, there is an increasing pressure on private sector institutions to implement or support initiatives and causes that improve the environment and community well-being. This trend is evident in the increased corporate giving and increased corporate reporting on social responsibility initiatives. Corporate giving is gradually shifting from being an obligation to becoming an integral part of corporation's strategy and brand.

OiER places special focus on aligning public interest and the offerings and requirements of the private sector in the fields of education and employment, health, energy and environment, urban development, infrastructure and agribusiness.

During the past years OiER has had its focus in using its platform to work with members to formulate effective and targeted public-private partnerships that promote and enhance smart, and sustainable development of Cities with a special focus on Asia, Middle East, Africa and South America. Additionally, OiER assesses important initiatives by not-for-profit and public institutions, matches those initiatives to the interests of its private sector members as well as actively acquire the needed resources for successful implementation.

Today OiER is working to support governments and UN agencies in identifying partnerships for priority projects within the private and public sector. Main focus is on establishing partnerships for development projects in the sector of:

- Education and youth employment
- Health and medical infrastructure
- Energy and environment
- Urban development and smart cities
- Food supply and agro-business

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OiER is using its platform to work with partners to formulate effective and targeted public-private partnerships that promote and enhance sustainable growth in ways that can promote sustainable development and reduce poverty.

The recognition of the three-partial cooperation between the role of non-governmental organizations, the private and public sector to support civil society we consider to be a key factor to foster innovative, transparent and cost-effective long term sustainable development, to reduce social economic disparity. We identify funding opportunities, strengthen resource mobilization, implement projects and programs, give support in development of CSR, marketing and strategic communication.

OiER is an active partner of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

OiER's vision is complemented by our commitment to support the cross-cutting issues of good governance, sustainable urban development, energy, health, food supply, education and youth employment. This by supporting government and international organizations to identifying suitable private sector partners providing solutions for priority impact projects and cooperation in sustainable development.

Main achievements

Due to the long-standing partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which started in 2014 with the launch of the programme "United Smart Cities" (USC), OiER was awarded by UNECE in November 2018 to become a Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities.

The Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Smart and Sustainable Cities in Vienna supports UNECE to implement activities related to capacity building and cooperation.

In particular, in its capacity the Centre:

- Supports cities to assess their economic, environmental and socio-cultural performances and set priorities for action;
- Promotes exchange of best practices among countries and cities engaged in the implementation of smart sustainable city activities;
- Encourages cooperation among international, national and local stakeholders;
- Ensures knowledge transfer and strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to develop and implement policies and actions to improve the quality of life of people and efficiency of urban operations;
- Identifies financing tools and mechanisms to accelerate progress of smart city projects;
- Supports the achievement of the SDGs at the city level.

On October 3, 2019 the U4SSC Secretariat accredited the Organization for international Economic Relations to lead the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Implementation Program (U4SSC IP).

The U4SSC Implementation Program is set up to support the development of Smart and Sustainable Cities by providing the necessary resources and expertise to cities across the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and especially SDG 11. The U4SSC Implementation Program builds on strong collaborative networks with cities, governments, international organizations, the UN, the private and finance sectors.

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The U4SSC Implementation Program works to support the use of the U4SSC KPIs amongst cities and support cities in identifying and implementing projects, partnerships, solutions and mobilize resources to facilitate their development to become smart and sustainable.

Established in 2016, The “United for Smart Sustainable Cities” (U4SSC) is a UN initiative coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to accelerate the transformation of cities globally to be smarter, more sustainable with better quality of life for its citizens and to ensure cities achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the 2030 agenda.

U4SSC is in addition to ITU, UNECE and UN- Habitat supported by the following UN bodies; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations University - Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The U4SSC initiative has developed a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities to support cities worldwide in evaluating the role and contribution of ICTs in smart sustainable cities, and to provide cities with the tools for self-assessments in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To support prospective cities in implementing the KPIs, the 16 UN-Agencies supporting U4SSC have created the U4SSC Implementation Program (U4SSC IP).

This project not only aims at enhancing collaboration in the corporate, financial, and governmental sectors; furthermore, it is an innovative approach to evaluating and assessing potential industry partners, addressing and impact on the UN SDGs. As such, the tool measures and reflects companies' contribution to the Global Compact Principles.

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/united/Pages/default.aspx>

Internal process-enhancements related to the Global Compact principles

Within OiER and our sphere of influence, we embrace, support and enact according to a set of core values laid down in the following internal documents:

- OiER Guidelines to Standard Operations procedures
- Ethical guideline related to development work
- Risk management procedure for fundraising and identification of funding (anti money laundering measures)
- Guideline for identification and acceptance of cooperating partners
- Guideline for program identification, participation, monitoring and evaluation

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Our commitment is to function as a strategic and operating partner to the civil society, public sector and international and local businesses in global projects and programs and apply to crosscutting issues of good governance, sustainable development, gender equality and cross-sector cooperation in the most effective way. However, not all policies will work for all companies and partners pending on size, sector and country. OiER shall offer to assist to align the company CSR to the UN Global Compact 10 principles.

For business-development, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption measures and commitment are essential in a CSR policy. Measurement and monitoring of impacts and progress are essential if companies are to be effective in avoiding and combating corruption and money-laundering through their funding and program involvement.

This by amplify their success and assist to replace policies that do not work in their context of operation. According to our general rules of engagement involvement shall be within the following sectors:

- Energy;
- Urban development;
- Medical and health infrastructure;
- Agro-business;
- Education;
- Good governance Involvement shall be in projects and programmes that;
- Promote good governance;

- Promote long term sustainable development;
- Promote innovation and new technologies;
- Secure a clean and rich environment;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Prevents pollution;
- Reduce social economic disparities;
- Are non-discriminable;
- Enhance food supply;

The core objectives for Project and Program (P/P) participation from OiER;

- Can be a global initiative
- Can strengthen civil society, increase knowledge through participation by the affected population, different sectors and local businesses and contribute to good governance
- Enhances three-partial participation between public, private and the NGO sector through capacity building, opportunities and cooperation focusing on the results of the interventions on people, systems, sectors and the environment
- Respect local culture and custom
- Can be established based on Risk –based Management Approach (OECD/DAC)
- Is accountable and have the possibility to define indicators with targets and baselines used to assess measurable progress in accordance with desired impact
- OiER is a main partner in the operation
- UN Global Compact 10 principles are basis for OiER involvement

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Within the U4SSC Implementation Programme framework these concrete actions were taken by OiER in collaboration with international partners:

- Over 100 cities worldwide underwent the **U4SSC KPI Assessment/Verification process**. The assessment provides cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect the necessary data to measure performance and progress in regard to: a) Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); b) Becoming a smarter city; and c) Becoming a more sustainable city.
- **Creation of a Global City Solutions Marketplace**: The Global Digital Marketplace has been set up to support cities, businesses and finance institutions to connect for designing and developing projects after completion of KPI evaluation. The U4SSC IP team is working to support all stakeholders in building this bridge. Through the marketplace, cities have a unique opportunity to engage with experts and solution providers to gain a better understanding of adequate solutions and financing opportunities. Cities promote projects through the platform as an open invitation for local and international providers to submit proposals for implementation. The program experts review and analyse project viability and develop project financing solutions through the City Investment Project Facility in support of the Digital Investment Marketplace.
- **Development of Data Management Platform including City KPI Dashboard**: A KPI Dashboard is under development to support and facilitate the data gathering from cities in the U4SSC IP as well as to provide tools for visualizations and reports.
- **Set-Up of Innovation & Co-Creation LAB Vienna/Austria**: The Innovation and Co-Creation LAB in Vienna was opened in 2018 by UNECE and OiER to support the implementation of smart sustainable city projects. The Lab is a concrete space where businesses, academia and cities come together to develop joint projects and solutions.
- **Set-Up of Innovation & Co-Creation LAB Alesund/Norway**: Linked to Simulation tool for cities an innovation LAB has been opened by the City of Alesund in Norway to support this work as well as to take forward co-creation activities between business, cities, academia and finance institutions. The LAB will be focussed on Norwegian and Nordic Cities in the Program.
- **Creation of a Global City Simulation Tool**: Partnering with the Offshore Simulator Centre/Augment City in Norway, OiER is working on providing a new cutting-edge simulation technology to cities. OSC has developed software, Augmented Reality (AR) and predictive programs for simulators, which can be used to set up digital graphical twins of cities. The Global City Simulation Tool integrates data from all urban areas and sectors to offer a holistic visual understanding of city planning, integration of technologies and effects of decision-making. By producing a Digital Twin City, simulations are able to test outcome scenarios before implementing them in real-life. It also provides real-time analysis to current city operations and activities. Through visualisation and simulation, decision makers, stakeholders and citizens will have a tool for easier understanding the complex landscape of current situations, trends, alternatives and consequences before decisions are taken.
- **Development of Digital Co-Creation Toolbox and blue print for city solutions**: In partnership with 60 German Cities, the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) and OiER, Deutsche

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Telekom has worked to develop the Smart City Co-Creation Toolbox enabling city administrations to approach and be guided in their digitization ideas. The toolbox is focussed on understanding the different target groups as well as the current challenges of a city, the Tool-box helps to guide on process and implementation of Smart City solutions.

- **Development of Smart City Guide and Business platform:** The Smart City / Smart Region Guide is aimed at employees in municipalities as a support tool for understanding the concept of smart cities, what is a smart city, understand the stakeholders, and gives an overview of approaches to smart cities. The Smart City / Smart Region was published in multiple languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Arabic, Russian, etc.)
- **Integration of City SDG Intelligence Tool:** News and social media represent important interfaces to decision makers in cities, and can help to identify most discussed topics in a city as well as to understand the awareness amongst the population in relation to the SDGs. The Web intelligence platform of webLyzard identifies opinion leaders and visualizes emerging trends across such online channels. It supports decision makers by identifying relevance and sentiment of user-generated content. To compute the indicators, webLyzard builds multilingual content repositories from public online sources. It then uses semantic technologies and opinion mining techniques to process the collected data and extract actionable knowledge from these repositories. The Web intelligence tools of the dashboard provide a real-time account of topics that target audiences associate with the cities products and services. Built on 15 years of R&D into semantic technologies for Web intelligence and visual analytics applications, webLyzard is an Austrian SME founded in 2008.

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Beyond seeking partnerships with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles, OiER additionally incorporates the 10 principles into its corporate DNA.

How OiER works following the ten principles

	Principles	OiER Outcomes 2018-2019
Human rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights;2. Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We respect the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and continuously promote and support these rights with all our stakeholders. We wish to explicitly communicate our engagement within this field.• In our establishment of business partnerships, we solely make sure those partners live up to the Universal Declaration.
Labor	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor;5. The effective abolition of child labor;6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OiER supports and recognizes labor rights and works only with partners that adhere to and comply with the Global Compact's Labor Principles.• In full compliance with local and federal labor laws, we try to eliminate and eradicate any type of discrimination based on race, sex, religion or gender.
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;8. Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility;9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United for Smart Sustainable Cities Implementation program realized worldwide, initiated together with UN partner agencies.• Further development of U4SSC projects and business partner solutions.
Anti-Corruption	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OiER guidelines and statutes.• Risk management procedure for fundraising and identification of funding (anti money laundering measures)• The OiER policy for corruption is communicated to all our employees and partners. In compliance with local and federal anti-corruption laws, we fully support UNGC anti-corruption rules, dealing only with partners that have similar principles of good faith and fair play.