

## Communication on Engagement | UN GLOBAL COMPACT

### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 01/01/ 2016 To: 31/12/2018

#### Part I. Statement of Continued Support by CIMA Research Foundation President

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that CIMA Research Foundation 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, its Principles and also its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luca Ferraris". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Luca Ferraris

*President*

## Part II. Description of Actions

### 1 . Overview 2016-2018: Implementing the Global Compact Ten Principles and the 2030 Agenda

Since the last Communication on Engagement Report, published in 2016, CIMA Research Foundation has continued its efforts towards the implementation of The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the post-2015 Agendas. Our efforts have been eased and supported by a growing global movement lead by institutions, academia, private companies and civil society working together towards new development approaches which uphold the principles of human dignity and equality, environmental responsibility and economic prosperity. This has resulted in the creation of multi-level networks and platforms where to share ideas, failures and successes within a common framework of action and goals, from which CIMA Research Foundation strongly benefits and contributes, with results gradually reflecting on its strategic choices and internal philosophy of work.

Since 2016 CIMA Research Foundation has adhered to:

#### - The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)



The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement, working closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society. [<https://www.unsdsn.org>]

#### - ASVIS: Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development

The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) was established 2016, upon the initiative of the Unipolis Foundation and the University of Rome "Tor Vergata". Its aim is to raise the awareness of the Italian society, economic stakeholders and institutions about the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to mobilize them in order to

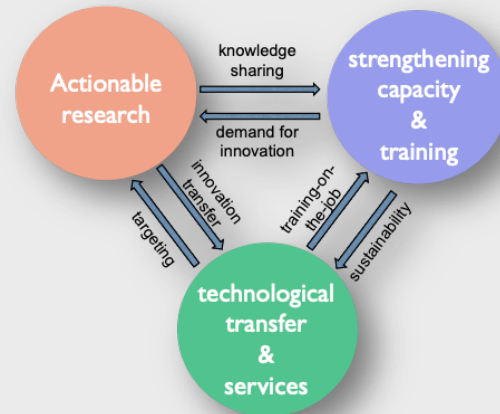


pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Alliance brings together over 220 member organizations among the most important civil society institutions and networks, such as: associations representing social partners (businesses, trade unions and third sector associations); networks of civil society associations pursuing specific Goals (health, education, employment, environment quality, gender equality, etc.); associations of local public administrations; public and private universities and research centres; associations of stakeholders working in the fields of culture and information; foundations and networks of foundations; Italian organizations that are members of international networks dealing with the SDGs. [<https://asvis.it>]

## MISSION

**CIMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION** is a non-profit research centre which mission is to promote the study, scientific research, technological development and higher education in environmental sciences, within the fields of civil protection, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Our mission is accomplished through scientific research, technological transfer, high-level technical trainings and by advising science-based policy recommendations for disaster risk reduction.



## Growing Responsibilities

The present climate crises is changing the frequency and the magnitude of natural events, with direct consequences in the development efforts implemented by countries - mainly those with low and medium level economies. Disasters are on the rise, with an increasing number of people being affected and growing economic losses being felt across all sectors. Under this lens, CIMA's multi-disciplinary researchers are investigating growing links between disasters, climate change, social vulnerability, environmental conservation and development performances in low and middle income countries. Such research is leading to the development of technological tools designed to provide wider and longer-term social protection and development benefits.

## RASOR

RASOR is a multi-risk tool which uses optical satellite data, archive radar, real-time ultra-high resolution and in situ data. It is designed to perform multi-hazard risk analysis during the full cycle of disaster management. RASOR allows to perform analysis on the scenario of a single event, but also of an entire set of possible scenarios within a probabilistic context (Probabilistic Risk Assessment). This allows both for an initial risk assessment on a given territory and for eventual cost benefit analysis useful for the prioritization of possible measures of risk mitigation. In this sense RASOR is a tool for decision makers to allow a better assessment of the scenario in a given area and to reduce its impact with mitigation or prevention measures.

[\[http://www.rasor-project.eu\]](http://www.rasor-project.eu)

## EDRIF

EDRIF is a platform which aims at improving the performance of the Earth Observation products to be used for Disaster Risk Management and Financing applications. Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) can increase the ability of national and local governments, homeowners, businesses, agricultural producers, and low-income populations to respond more quickly and resiliently to disasters by strengthening public financial management and promoting market-based disaster risk financing. However, efficient disaster risk

management and a rapid response financing in the wake of a natural disaster, requires a deep knowledge of the environmental situation, the potential affected areas, infrastructure and people. Risk financing solutions require a clear understanding of risk and reliable triggers which need to be known, transparent, objective and consistent over time. For this reason, and in order to ensure the availability of contingency funds for a large variety of scenarios to be covered, it is necessary to make use of satellite images in a combined and complementary way with in situ observations. <http://edrift.cimafoundation.org/DRF/>

If its true that our research and technological activities have, since its beginning, been designed and planned to achieve societal benefits, they have very often been applied in very small scales and within technical silos, not always achieving its full potential within a sustainable development perspective. A further step was thus necessary to bridge these two worlds - science and development - where CIMA Research Foundation, while being a representative of the scientific international community, is an important actor in leading innovative research and in advocating for risk informed decision and policy making towards resilient and sustainable societies. Efforts are thus being made in the communication of science-based evidences to policy makers, supporting the design and implementation of policies and measures for disaster risk reduction, a milestone for sustainable development, as its clear in SDG 11, directly related to CIMA's mission.

## **CIMA Research Foundation and the 2030 Agenda**

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets was adopted on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Government at a special UN summit. The Agenda is a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a landmark achievement, providing for a shared global vision towards sustainable development for all. The 2030 Agenda, Goal 11, calls for sustainable cities and communities. Common urban challenges include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing, declining infrastructure and an increased vulnerability to the impacts of natural disasters, among others.

**TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:**



**THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

During 2018 CIMA Research Foundation has furthermore developed probabilistic risk assessments for floods and droughts for sixteen African countries, aiming at informing policy makers about the national risk level projected until 2100 and thus to help to better plan the future long-term strategic decisions of each country. The project, funded by the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Africa, has involved more than six-hundred risk managers across Africa and is reflecting in improved, risk-informed, decision making processes in many of the countries we had the privilege to work with.

## **Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

**Target 11.5:** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

**Target 11.9:** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

**Target 11.9:** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

Other Goals also relate closely to CIMA's mission, such as **Goal 1**, namely target 1.5 and **Goal 13**, with targets 13.1 e 13.3.

## **Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

**Target 1.5:** By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

- Indicator 1.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population;
- Indicator 1.5.2: Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP);
- Indicator 1.5.3: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- Indicator 1.5.4: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

## **Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

- Indicator 13.1.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population;
- Indicator 13.1.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- Indicator 13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

As CIMA Research Foundation activities are expanding both scientifically and geographically, with projects being implemented in low and middle income countries in Africa, Asia and South America, an internal concern towards the effective impact of our projects is also increasing. To this end, research and project's outputs are gradually converging to the global efforts being made towards the implementation of the post - 2015 international agendas: the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. These three agendas collectively provide the foundation for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development under a changing climate. Considering its relevance to our core activities, a focus is given to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the following outcome:

*The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.*

### Sendai Seven Global Targets

- 1 - Substantially **reduce global disaster mortality** by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- 2 - Substantially **reduce the number of affected people globally** by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- 3 - Reduce **direct disaster economic loss** in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- 4 - Substantially reduce disaster **damage to critical infrastructure** and disruption of **basic services**, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- 5 - Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local **disaster risk reduction strategies** by 2020.
- 6 - Substantially enhance **international cooperation** to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- 7- Substantially increase the availability of and access to **multi-hazard early warning systems** and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

## Sustainability = Coherence

We believe that sustainability is above all coherence based on principles of human dignity, equality, environmental responsibility and economic prosperity. For this reason our sustainability path started in 2011 from “within”: our aim was/is to be sustainable, firsthand, at the microlevel, starting from each one of our human resources for which we have special work conditions and wellbeing programs and with whom we design strategies for further sustainability through non-formal and participatory approaches.

Nowadays, our international profile allow us to be an advocator for sustainable development through science-based information for disaster risk reduction, however, our commitment is to be an actor of change across all levels, never forgetting our People. Since 2011 our Sustainability Strategy was designed to be applied at four main scales: Internal, Local, Regional/National and International.



### Internal

Internal measures include: i) anti-corruption administrative procedures for all CIMA suppliers; ii) responsible choice of suppliers and consumables based on ecological standards (FSC paper, vegetable inks, fair-trade and geographic proximity,); iii) above the average working conditions with dedicated welfare programs; iv) dedicated research programs to better understand the nexus between disasters and development and to improve CIMA's performance internationally.

### Local

Dedicated educational programs for local elementary schools on environmental awareness and the dissemination of 2030 Agenda. Programs are designed in collaboration with teachers and tailored for each age group in line with the curricula activities.

## Regional/National

Partnership with Regione Liguria aimed at creating a **Regional Hub for the promotion of the 2030 Agenda** with local institutions, schools and civil society. CIMA is also partner of Regione Liguria to develop the baseline analysis of a regional climate change adaptation strategy.

## International

Partnership with our international partners like UNDRR, WMO, World Bank among others to advocate for Sustainable Development through the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction measures as promoted by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction.

## Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Although we are still lacking a proper method to measure and monitor our impacts on the achievement of The Ten Principles and the Global Goals, it is clear that both are intertwined with most of CIMA's research projects, activities and overall mission. Efforts will be made, in the years to come, on the structuring of an effectively methodology to measure the impact of our research and activities, making use of the international reporting standards such as the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative). This will be made possible initially through an external audit process, during 2020-2021, to assure the full compliance with the international standards