

# COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

---

European Forum Alpbach Non-Profit Association

## Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

**From:** 21.02.2017

**To:** 17.02.2019

## Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

*Vienna, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that European Forum Alpbach Non-Profit Association 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,

Ms. Sonja Jöchtl

## Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

1. Promotion of multiple GC principles through the following activities:
  - A) Promotion of **Principle 7** “Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges”  
*Through:*
    - i. Active participation and contribution to the implementation of a “**Green Meeting**”, the European Forum Alpbach by the yearly participation of over 4800 people from over 100 nations to the Forum.
  - B) Promotion of **Principles 6, 8 & 9** “The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation”; “Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility”; and “Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies” in the **academic sector** by:
    - i. **Delivering education** on the topics related to the Global Compact such as:
      - The Seminars during the **Seminar Week**. These are strongly focused on the GC’s principles. Examples from the European Forum Alpbach 2019 include:
        - ✓ Innovation in Plant Breeding – Opportunity or Threat for Our Food Security? (**Principles 8 & 9**)
        - ✓ Promises and Challenges of Urbanisation (**Principles 8 & 9**)
        - ✓ Liberty and Security in the Context of Women’s Right (**Principle 6**)
    - ii. Creation of the **Alpbach Learning Missions** – a groundbreaking seminar format in Alpbach. These are strongly focused on the GC’s principles. Examples from the European Forum Alpbach 2019 include:
      - ✓ ‘Water Security for People and nature – from now to 2050’ (**Principles 8 & 9**)
      - ✓ ‘Noncommunicable diseases – How to control prevent them’ (**Principles 8 & 9**)
      - ✓ ‘How can the transition to a low-carbon-society work?’ (**Principles 8 & 9**)
  - C) Support of special initiatives and work streams, specifically:
    - i. Through the **facilitation of two campus programmes** in Alpbach, namely:
      - the **Alpbach in Motion** Programme, which connects committed people from various business backgrounds to share knowledge of structural problems and to spark new ideas in solution-focused dialogues. The group members bring new insights back into their fields of work and a diverse network of trustworthy contacts to seek advice from. The group is led by facilitators who guide through 25 varied and unanticipated hours of group work enriched with inputs from experts offering personal and professional insights. The exchange between the experts and the group is a key ingredient for inspiration. Our high-level professionals dare listeners to enter discussions and/or rethink their current views. Tomáš Sedláček, Jeffrey Sachs, Charles Handy and Bernie Roth among others, have stimulated the minds of Alpbach in Motion so far.

- ii. Facilitation of the **make shift** programme, focused on the leadership necessary to embrace future markets and game changing opportunities arising out of the climate crisis, technological disruption and human behaviour. Specifically, make\_shift is a collaborative learning journey that equips leaders with the mindset, the unusual insights, and the 'how' to build future-ready businesses for a low/zero-carbon circular economy. The programme encourages participants to co-create with peers and receive feedback from international experts and coaches on their journey from concrete projects for sustainable business transformation. One of the goals of the programme is to make participants leave with a n understanding of global sustainability transformation, megatrends, circular economy, technological opportunities, and planetary boundaries (**Principles 7, 8 & 9**) as well as making participants gain gey insights to deliver on sustainable business strategy: collaborative leadership know-how focusing on planet- and people-centred innovation, culture, and change (**Principles 6, 7, 8 & 9**).
- iii. Facilitation of the Leadership Programme on Foundation Management, which consists of in-depth knowledge on the management of charitable foundations in Austria, combined with real-life high-level insights as well as best practices and a collaborative reflection concept.

### **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

1. Assigning a total of over **1500 scholarships** in the past 3 years
2. Creation of **5 Alpbach Learning Missions** in 2019 (3 scientific and 2 philosophical ones), a new groundbreaking Seminar format in Alpbach → with **63 participants** in total
3. Acting in compliance with the “Green Meeting” Guidelines of the Austrian Ecolabel through:
  - a. Making **public travel** as unproblematic as possible. In cooperation with the ÖBB, an Austrian mobility service provider, we offer additional shuttle bus lines to Alpbach.
  - b. **Reducing waste** as much as possible. In addition to the reduction of printed brochures and the omission of the distribution of flyers, we also ask participants to return their badges after the event in the designated boxes at the registry, as they will be reused.
  - c. Paying attention to environmental protection in **catering**. Therefore, only reusable dishware and reusable packaging are used. In addition, the use of regional and seasonal foods is particularly important to us.
  - d. Actively asking participants to use the environmentally friendly offers of their **accommodation** such as the change of towels and sheets only when needed.