



# **UN Global Compact**

## Communication on Progress

### 2020

November 2019 – March 2020



F3 - Fighting Fake Facts - University of Basel - February 2020

## Statement of Continued Support

We are pleased to confirm that MDPI AG reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

MDPI will further demonstrate its commitment to sustainable management and responsibility for its employees. As a global publishing house, we see it as our duty to develop responsible practices that will ensure a bright future for our company and for our planet. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to the ten principles associated with the UN Global Compact, and we will focus on contributing to the following defined goals:

- Goal 3: Encourage all full-time employees to do sportive activities for good health.
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth.
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Goal 13: Support a precautionary approach to environmental issues to combat climate change.
- Goal 17: Seeking sustainable partnerships with universities, schools and other institutions.

In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations.

We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders, using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,  
on behalf of the CEO  
Matthias Burkhalter



This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

# UN Global Compact Principles

## Human Rights Principles

*Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and*

*Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.*

### Commitment

At MDPI, we continuously support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, and we make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

### Implementation

MDPI agrees to and implements all 31 Articles mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the reporting period. We will continuously work to make sure that all our employees know the MDPI policy on human rights. We have further improved our commitment.

The guidelines are also implemented in MDPI's updated 'General Employment Conditions'.



Climate Action Messe Basel. Photo: Matthias Burkhalter.

## Labour Rights Principles

*Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;*

*Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;*

*Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and*

*Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.*

### Commitment

MDPI has not participated in any form of forced, bonded or child labour and has fully complied with minimum wage standards during the reporting period.

### Implementation

The guidelines are implemented in MDPI's updated 'Employee Benefits Regulations'.



Conference Team with Foluke from Nigeria - Basel Headquarter. Photo: Matthias Burkhalter

## Environmental Principles

*Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;*

*Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and*

*Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.*

### Commitment

MDPI is strongly committed to support societally-relevant research that contributes to regional and global efforts toward a sustainable world.

### Implementation

As part of this effort, MDPI has initiated the *World Sustainability Forum (WSF)*, an international conference at which the *World Sustainability Awards* will be presented, as well as its smaller counterparts—the physical *local forums* on ‘Mobility’, ‘Energy’, ‘Climate’ and ‘Health’ and the *electronic forums*. Furthermore, MDPI fosters scholarly exchange on issues of sustainability with its according publications—the open-access journal *Sustainability*, *Water*, *IJERPH* etc. and the edited book series *on the 17 SDGs*.



Ed Constable, Max Bergman, Matthias Burkhalter, Heiner Vischer. Photo: Matthias Burkhalter.

## Anti-Corruption Principles

*Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.*

### Commitment

MDPI is fully committed to work against corruption in all its forms including extortion and bribery.

### Implementation

Anti-corruption guidelines are also implemented in MDPI's 'General Employment Conditions'.



Japanese Delegation at the Global Festival of Action, Bonn 2019. Photo: Matthias Burkhalter

## MDPI and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The *World Sustainability Forum* and the *Basel Sustainability Forum* series focus on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Sustainable Development Goals via UN News Centre.

As a global publishing house, we see it as our duty to develop responsible practices that will ensure a bright future for our planet. Based on our purpose and company's scope, we focus on six UN Sustainability Development Goals:

### **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being**

Enable all full time employees to join a sports gym for good health and wellbeing, paid by MDPI.

### **Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning**

In 2016, we announced the *World Sustainability Award* and the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* to encourage new initiatives and developments for sustainability. Both awards are bound to the ultimate aim to foster the transfer from research on sustainability to sustainable practices and societies.

### **Recipients of the 2nd World Sustainability Award (USD 100,000)**

Dr. Mathis Wackernagel and Dr. Zhifu Mi are the joint recipients of the 2nd World Sustainability Award. Dr. Mathis Wackernagel is the main winner and gets 2/3 and Dr. Zhifu Mi gets 1/3 of the prize.

### **Winners of the 2nd Emerging Sustainability Leader Award (USD 10,000)**

The joint recipients of the second *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* are Dr. Bradley Hiller and Dr. Xiaodong Zhang.

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Since the foundation of MDPI two decades ago, we have provided our staff with equal opportunities to grow and develop their career. At MDPI, we foster gender equality and refuse any form of discrimination against women at work. We support women in management positions: 85% of MDPI Staff and Managers/-esses are women.

**Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth**

MDPI promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all in our offices in Basel, Beijing, Wuhan, Barcelona, Belgrade, Manchester, Tianjin, Tokyo and Cluj.

**Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Being an academic open access publisher, we support innovation by nature. In comparison to a traditional publishing house, we produce less printed out-put and impact the environment in a less harmful, sustainable way.

**Goal 13: Climate Action**

As an academic open access publisher, we support e-conferences and encourage employees to use public transport and reduce business flights to an absolute minimum. We also plan to create satellite events on all continents to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions.

**Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals**

Creating sustainable partnerships with establishing an academic network and organize additional local conferences to reach all UN SDGs by 2030.



With Didier Queloz and Antonella Santuccione at the WEF2020 in Davos. Photo: Matthias Burkhalter