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June 23, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Secretary General

I am pleased to submit Athena's biennial 2020 **Communication on Engagement** report and convey its continued support for the United Nations Global Compact. Athena strongly supports public accountability and transparency and therefore commits to this progress report. As Athena renews its ongoing commitment to this global initiative and its principles, the following leadership activities highlight the support we're generating to promote the Global Compact's principles.

- **On June 30, 2020** | Athena releases its 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Women in STEM Workforce Index to help close the perception gap and inform the national dialogue on gender inequalities for women in STEM through data.
- **On December 10, 2019** | Athena and its STEM member companies collaborate with the UNGC USA Network on a "Targeting Gender Equality" Regional Meetup with the office of the Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and representatives of the ASU Thunderbird School of Management in Los Angeles, California.
- **On May 14, 2019** | Athena and the New York Academy of Sciences announce a new strategic alliance to advance gender equality at the United Nations during its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Science, Technology and Innovation Forum in New York City. This strategic partnership, named the **Athena Assembly** will convene a 3-year consortium of 15-20 global STEM companies to design, pilot, and publish a sector-specific playbook on achieving gender equality in the workforce.
- **On May 14, 2019** | Athena CEO is invited to join the UN's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York City and present on a panel on women in the tech workforce.
- **On May 7, 2019** | Athena announces its status as a Signatory to the UN Global Compact and engages its 800 STEM members for collective action in [joining the UN Global Compact](#) during Athena's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pinnacle Awards Ceremony at Qualcomm headquarters in San Diego, California.

- **On November 14, 2018** | Athena hosts an educational workshop in San Diego, California with a “Call to Action” for businesses to implement the Compact’s WEP tools and invite greater CEO commitment to SDG #5.
- **On December 7, 2018** | Athena’s Board of Directors and member companies join forces with the UN Global Compact USA Network in collaborating on a Regional Meetup in San Francisco, CA at GAP headquarters to advocate for SDG #5 implementation.
- **On September 25, 2018** | Athena CEO attends the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly to join forces with the UN Global Compact and advocate for the business case for achieving gender equality in the workforce.
- **On June 22, 2018** | Athena becomes a signatory to the UN Global Compact.

Athena is honored to extend its 20+ year platform and deep history of advocating women empowerment principles through its leadership development and mentoring initiatives designed for women working in the traditionally male-dominated STEM fields.

As we continue to advocate best practices towards advancing SDG#5, Athena recognizes that public-private partnerships and corporate initiatives are critical to building capacity, scaling solutions and measuring outcomes. Athena is committed to leveraging its extended market reach to accelerate business engagement throughout California’s global STEM hub. Cultivating transparency and accountability to the incremental business strides we’re generating and the pervasive inequities that persist is essential as we aspire to meet the UN Global Compact 2030 target.

Sincerely,



Holly Smithson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Athena