

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TRALEE UNESCO CHAIR



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: [22.09.18] To: [20.09.20]

19.09.20

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that the Institute of Technology Tralee and its UNESCO Chair can at this point reaffirm our support to the United Nations Global Compact and its principles. We herein present our Communication on Engagement (COE) with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

This COE describes our supportive actions since joining the Compact and its principles as suggested for academic institutions, such as ours. We will share this information with our stakeholders using our primary communication channels. We look forward to continued actions in the following period to strengthen our engagement.

We are in the process of transitioning to Munster Technological University in January 2021, and a strategic priority of MTU is 'to align its activities – across teaching, research and engagement – with the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. In this regard engagement with the GC becomes even more significant and important and we will be seeking to expand our impact beyond our UNESCO Chair activities.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Brendan O Donnell

President, Institute of Technology, Tralee, Co Kerry, Ireland

Part I. Statement of Continued Support

Part II. Description of Actions

Incorporate the GC principles into internal operations and communicate progress following the COP requirements (required) (see COP attachment)

• **Promote the GC and its principles through one of the following activities (at least one of the following options is required)**

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

Under the guidance of UNESCO and its intergovernmental committee for physical education and sport we continue to develop appropriate education resources and education sessions to support principles of the GC as relevant to sport, physical activity and physical education.

- a) IT Tralee won the [2019 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards](#) jointly run by the Royal Irish Academy, and the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland. Our project UFIT that is inclusivizing the health and fitness sector globally won in the Higher Education Category for an Irish Higher Education Institution/Research Centre with US corporate. Universal Fitness Innovation & Transformation (UFIT) is a social movement led by the UNESCO Chair at ITT building capacity in the fitness industry to support fitness clubs to be more inclusive. UFIT resources align with Global Compact principles 1 and 2, related to Human Rights – and principle 6, elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. It features in the UN Global Compact publication BUSINESS ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (see page 9). This is available to businesses participants to inclusivize their fitness businesses.
https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/publications/Accessible_Disabilities_Guide.pdf
- b) Developed iPEPAS, a blended learning training and education resource that will soon be freely available for physical education, sport and physical activity professionals to increase their competence to include people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. iPEPAS is founded on a bio-psycho-social and person-centered approach which addresses personal and environmental factors, and incorporates interpersonal and communication skills, including empathy, realness and positive regard, to facilitate a truly welcoming, inclusive environment for participants. iPEPAS aligns to principles 1,2 and 6 of the CG principles. A component for Martial Arts is being Developed with the UNESCO Centre for Martial Arts in Korea.
- c) As part of the follow-up to the Kazan Action Plan (KAP), the UNESCO Chair has led a sectoral partnership aiming to advance mechanisms for reporting and follow-up on human rights and sport. Reporting templates and advocacy tools have been developed to help the sports sector navigate the complexities of UN human rights systems, engage with the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as well as to highlight to states and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) how they can increase reporting on sport. Sport and physical education mapped to 10 SDGs and 36 targets and indicators for reporting on sport and the SDGs. A toolkit of indicators of reporting on sport and the SDGs has been developed. The human rights resources integrate the SDG indicator toolkit, maximise the value of investment in data collections, to lessen the data collection burden on states and ensure data is as coherent as possible. This work aligns with principles 1 and 2 of the UN Global Compact.
- d) Council of Europe and the European Union contracted the UNESCO Chair to undertake and implement a project under Democratic and Inclusive School Culture in Operation (DISCO) EU/CoE Joint Programme for international co-operation projects. The UNESCO Chair put forward a proposal under Thematic priority 2: Fostering democratic and inclusive culture in education institutions, with a particular focus on creating opportunities for migrants, refugees and minorities. In a highly competitive space our application was successful and funding was awarded to undertake the project entitled “The Rights Understanding in Sport Toolkit (TRUST)” which will develop a programme for sports practitioners in educational institutions and the wider community on providing human rights education and raise awareness of the potential role sport can play in human rights. The project will run 2020 – 2021.

- e) Nationally, in partnership with leading sport and human rights stakeholders we are delivering a series of briefings and workshops on Human Rights. This will include addressing public sector duties and obligations and, business and human rights, and rights holder awareness raising. This address principles 1,2,6.

2. Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact

- a) Institutionally we are working with international partners on the development of a mechanism for measuring the contribution of sport to development and peace. This globally focused initiative aligns with Action 2 of the follow-up framework of the Kazan Action plan. Indicators have been developed across all relevant SDG goals and targets, and this action addresses all 10 principles of the GC. We are aligning human rights indicators with these indicators and calling national statistics offices to support the gathering of this data.
- b) Masters by Research: Mehta, S., O'Dwyer, B. and Carty, C., 'Opportunities and Challenges for Multilateral Development Bank (MDBs) to invest in sport-based solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals'.
- This research aims to identify the opportunities and challenges for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to invest in sport-based solutions to achieve the SDGs. There is growing evidence of sports contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but for successful sport for development initiatives to be replicated and scaled there is a need to secure long-term sustainable financing. This research has the potential to transform the sport for development sector that currently relies on UN agencies, government aid, non-governmental organizations and corporations for funding. The research identifies clear avenues and recommendations for sport-based investments for MDBs.
- c) Masdeu Yélamos, G., Carty, C. and Clardy, A. 2019. *Sport: a driver of sustainable development, promoter of human rights, and vehicle for health and wellbeing for all*. Sport, Business, Management: an International Journal. Vol. 9 No. 4, pp. 315-327.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/SBM-10-2018-0090>
- d) Masdeu Yélamos, G., Carty, C., Moynihan, Ú. and ODwyer, B. (2019), *The Universal Transformational Management Framework (UTMF)*, Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, Vol. 8 No. 1, pp. 122-146. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JEPP-D-18-00091> ~
- e) Masdeu Yélamos, G., Carty, C. and MacLachlan, M. 2019. *Assessing and improving the national reporting on human rights in and through Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS)*. Journal of Sport Psychology (In Press).
- f) Masdeu Yélamos, G., Carty, C. and MacLachlan, M. 2019. *The rise of public recognition of human rights in and through sport*. International Journal of Children's Rights (Accepted)
- g) Carty, C., Lieberman, L., & Masdeu Yélamos, G. (2020). Global Policy Context- the Implications and Resources for Physical Education in Higher Education. In Physical Education in Universities: Researches – Best Practices – Situation. FIEP Publication 2020.
- h) Carty, C., Masdeu Yélamos, G., Bantham, A. (2020). A Transformative Approach to Increase Participation of People with Disabilities in Fitness Clubs: A Case Study. Journal of Sport for Development (Under Review)

3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

- a) We conducted a side-event at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Conference of State Parties 12. We referred to the importance of the principles of the compact in terms of businesses.
- b) We ran a session at the UN Human Rights Council Social Forum in Geneva in October 2018 at which the UN Global Compact Principles were part of our private sector presentation.
- c) The UN Global Compact principles were mentioned through our work at the following events/conferences/fora:
- The IHRSA International Convention & Trade Show, March 2019
 - INAS Global Games, Brisbane, 2019

- First regional conference of African Ministers on the implementation of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP) in Africa, Madagascar, September 2019
 - Presentations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva, 2019 - 2020
- d) Marseille Declarations signatories- from businesses willing and supporting inclusion
- e) In conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, the UNESCO Chair is planning a large showcase event for the Dubai Expo on the power of sport as a vehicle for inclusion and human rights, with a range of stakeholders from states, international organisations and the sport sector. The Global Compact principles will be represented and highlighted during this event.
- f) Briefing and CPD Sessions on Human Rights for Sports Sector in India
6th April 2020 National Council of Sports Science and Physical Education. International Conference on Sport for Development and Peace. Inclusive Physical Education.
- g) 11th May 2020 VIRTUAL International Conference on Creating Sports Culture in Universities from 9-May-2020 to 11- May -2020 organized by Faculty of Physiotherapy, SGT University, Gurugram, India. Why and How Universities Need to Address Inclusive PEPAS
- h) 15th May 2020 Sport and Human Rights Staff Training Session for the Sport Authority of India.
- i) 29th April 2020 iPEPAS & Human Rights and the SDGs: Faculty Development Programme Directorate of Sports, Punjab University, Chandigarh & National Council of Sports Sciences and Physical Education (NCSPE).
- j) 11th June 2020 Olympic Education Committee & Indian Olympic Association (NOC-India) on 23 May, 2020. Webinar on Olympism, Olympic Movement and Olympic Education from 11-12 June, 2020.
- 4. Provide support to UN Global Compact business participants in their own sustainability implementation and disclosure efforts**
- a) Our resources and initiatives have been included in the UN Global Compact: GUIDE FOR BUSINESS ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (see page 9). This is available to businesses participants to inclusivize their fitness businesses.
https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/publications/Accessible_Disabilities_Guide.pdf
- b) Lend capacity to Global Compact Local Networks and/or the Global Compact Office

Part III. Measurement 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.

- a)
- b) Represented at 75+ sessions where the GC principles were addressed nationally and internationally.
- c) Actively included GC principles in UN Side Events coordinated by us.
- d) Over 100 fitness clubs in the USA, Ireland, UK, Portugal, Spain and Peru are currently involved in the UFIT movement. They are encouraged to embed GC principles in their operations and service offering.
- e) 300+ signed up to the Marseille Declaration and launched the Active for All pledge supported by our industry partner IHRSA
- f) Disseminating GC Principles across 3 business course boards in the institute and will advocate broader adoption of these principles in line with MTU strategic priorities.
- g) 20 collaborative partnerships on implementing GC Principles internationally, including with the Global Design Challenge (led by UCC) and supporting innovations in the incubation stage to align with GC principles
- h) Embedded GC Principles into academic programmes
- i) Directed Post graduate research toward GC goals

COP Links Below:

Relevant IT policies

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Child Protection Procedures](#)
- [Staff Garda Vetting Policy](#)
- [Employment of People with Disabilities](#)
- [Equality Policy](#)
- [Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures](#)
- [Dignity and Respect in the Workplace](#)
- [Recruitment and Selection Policy](#)
- [Work Against Racism](#)
- [Data protection](#)