

A Renewed Commitment on Sustainable Development

Communication Of Engagement

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Our renewed commitment on Sustainable Development

In recent years, the centrality of sustainable development has been increasingly established. The most significant event is represented by the approval of the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which has redefined, with a transversal and integrated approach, the global goals aimed to meet the challenges of the coming three decades. The Agenda is a global pact to "leave no one behind" and calls upon all organizations – public, private, profit and non-profit – and civil society to become partners along the path to achieve common goals.

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) is a leading institution in the field of research on a wide range of environmental, energy and economic issues at both local and global levels. As such, FEEM is aware of its important role in the promotion and implementation of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda, which are areas of primary concern of FEEM activities and research that are aimed at developing and implementing tools for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thanks to the interdisciplinarity of its research, the attention devoted to integrated themes and approaches, collaborations and networks, FEEM can give a key contribution to the promotion of a sustainable future by developing theoretical and applied research projects, disseminating knowledge and supporting the key players of sustainable development.

FEEM's Code of Conduct commits the organization to act in line with UNGC Principles, encourages sustainable behavior from an environmental and social point of view, promotes the responsible use of natural resources in daily activities (**Principles 7, 8 and 9**) and underlines the importance of human relationships (**Principles from 1 to 6**). Furthermore, the Code rejects corruption and lack of transparency by implementing the tools to counter them (**Principle 10**). In 2015, FEEM adopted a new "Organisational, Management and Control Model" pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree 231/2001 including a new Surveillance Body, which monitors the functioning, effectiveness and compliance to the Model.

In order to bring about a pervasive change, FEEM is constantly involved in networking activities to enhance the skills of its researchers and to reach out to all policy levels. For this purpose, FEEM is the national office and hosting institution of several major international networks in the field of sustainable development, including the **Global Compact Italian Network** Foundation (GCNI) and the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** (SDSN Italy),

an initiative that aims at contextualizing the 2030 Agenda into the local Italian reality.

Following the above considerations, FEEM's participation in the Global Compact (GC) represents the opportunity of pursuing action at both the national and international level. The alignment of goals between the GC and FEEM is a very important lever of sustainable development in the global change path. For this reason, **the Foundation renews its commitment to the initiative of the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles in order to promote a more sustainable culture able to support a responsible and inclusive global growth.**

Research activities

FEEM has conducted high-level research on sustainable development since its origin, emphasising different issues that cover both the economic development and climate change, and focusing on solution initiatives enabling the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This focus has allowed FEEM to establish itself, throughout the years, as an internationally recognized research center and a think tank with a solid reputation for policy advocacy activities. This position has become increasingly consolidated thanks to FEEM's active participation in the most important international key-events dedicated to the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development issues (such as the T20, think tank for the G20, the HLPF, the UN General Assembly, the ICSD, etc.).

To better align FEEM's core activities with the new directions of international research on sustainability, and to respond to its stakeholders' requirements, in 2018 FEEM has renewed and reorganized its research programmes.

The **AFRICA: Research, Empowerment, Partnership (REP)** program aims at introducing a new research paradigm for Africa, at empowering local citizens, firms and institutions, and at strengthening partnerships in order to guarantee a sustainable future to the continent. REP is committed to exploring the energy challenge in Africa, which calls for a new way of approaching research, technological development and innovation in order to respond to a long lasting decarbonisation path that can avoid lock-in solutions assuring universal and affordable access to both electricity and thermal energy.

Three are the main directions of the REP area.

Joint and Native Research

The promotion of joint and native research is based on integrated planning methodologies for sustainable development at local or regional scale, and technological scenarios' forecasts. In particular, integrated methodology links traditional energy planning (linear programming or mix-integer) with macroeconomic empirical instrument (like Multiregional Input-Output Table - MIOT).

Empowerment of local capacity

The programme supports and strengthens the capacities and the skills in Africa through a large programme of knowledge sharing on integrated energy planning methodologies for researchers and officers.

Transversal partnerships

The programme works to strengthen an entire African Scientific Network connected to the best Italian and international scientific excellence.

Firms and Cities Transition towards Sustainability (FACTS) is a research program aimed at understanding and interpreting the current societal changes in response to the challenge of sustainability. It uses scientifically grounded quantitative and qualitative techniques to answer key questions concerning the transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future. It focuses on firms and cities.

The activities of the FACTS program concern four specific areas of interest.

Firms, Climate Risk and Business Innovation

FACTS aims at stimulating a debate on the importance of assessing and disclosing climate-related risks and opportunities and their impact on financial performance with a focus on Italian businesses.

Circular Economy

This area's aim is deepening the knowledge about the state of the art and implementation of the circular economy approach in European business models and policies.

Energy Transition and Cities

This area investigates how the current energy transition shapes sustainable development models at a city-level from a policy-making position.

Urbanization in Africa

This area investigates the effects of urban expansion on sustainable economic growth in African cities.

Future Energy Program (FEP) aims at conducting interdisciplinary, scientifically sound, prospective and policy-oriented applied research, targeted at political and business decision makers through an integrated quantitative and qualitative analysis of energy scenarios and policies. This interdisciplinary approach puts together the major factors driving the change in global energy dynamics, such as the technological, economic, geopolitical, environmental, institutional and sociological aspects.

Precisely, FEP is structured along four main research lines.

Global energy transition

With this research line, FEP investigates technological, economic and other challenges and opportunities related to the energy transition both in developing and developed countries. Some key issues analysed include the decarbonisation of the transport sector and the decarbonisation of natural gas.

Energy geopolitics

With this research line, FEP analyses the main energy-related geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics occurring in Russia, Central Asia, MENA, Africa but also globally. It also investigates how the global shift to renewable energy, and more generally decarbonisation, is disrupting the global energy system, impacting economies and changing the political and economic dynamics within and between countries.

Energy in Africa

With this research line, FEP investigates key energy issues for Africa. Some example of activities in this research line are: the role of geospatial planning in energy access; the role of digital technologies in accelerating the electrification process and modernizing the energy infrastructure; the water-energy-food-environment nexus by analysing, modelling, and planning for a sustainable multi-sectoral development, with specific attention on the cross-sectoral dependencies between the energy sector, water and agriculture, food security, and climate change.

Sustainable Finance

With this research line, FEP investigates how to finance the global energy transition in both developing and developed countries, and how to finance the challenge of energy access, in particular in Africa. It analyses the risk matrix associated with different types of investments, examines its mitigation potential, assesses the different available funds and their conditionality, and explores possibilities to enhance and channel available finance at the international and national, public and private level, for the huge financing needs for the global energy transition and energy access in Africa.

In order to foster integration among all its activities and to improve multidisciplinary FEEM includes also cross-cutting themes:

- **Agenda 2030** – the area is a cross strategic key of all FEEM activities and, in particular, systematizes studies and analyses on issues related to the 2030 Agenda, assessing the synergies and trade-offs involved in achieving the SDGs by 2030, and exploring the role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs.

The “2030 Agenda” area is divided into different sub-programs.

UN 2030 Agenda: that aims at localizing the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and at disseminating the culture of sustainable development through calls for ideas, events, seminars and training workshops, recognizing the centrality of public-private partnerships and the importance of new generations and civil society to pursue full sustainability. The research activity focuses on the localization of the 2030 Agenda through the creation of sustainability

indicators for Italian municipalities, provinces and metropolitan cities, regions and not only.

Environment, Energy, Uncertainty: that investigates the water footprint of economic activities by developing studies aimed at assessing the impacts of policies and investment decisions on water resources and on the energy-water nexus, by adapting and developing micro and macro studies related to energy and the use of water for production systems.

Food: that aims at assessing how environmental impacts, the use of water and natural resources can affect food production and its nutritional value.

- **Climate change** – FEEM develops and applies innovative modelling tools and instruments to analyse the costs and benefits of solution-oriented approaches to mitigation policies. The aim is to limit or prevent greenhouse gas emissions and enhance activities that remove them from the atmosphere. The sectors that are taken into account are: energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, waste management.
- **Economy and Society** – FEEM research aims also at encouraging communities, companies, and public institutions to strictly interact and cooperate to improve human well-being, social cohesion and environmental quality. The activities mainly concern the sustainability related to firms and markets, and to resilient cities.
- **Energy Challenges and Focus on Africa** – FEEM research focuses on energy transition in Africa and aims at implementing activities such as studies, partnerships, networking, and knowledge dissemination initiatives through national and international events on Africa and in Africa, in collaboration with national, European and African universities, institutions and research centres.
- **Local Projects for Sustainable Development** – these intend to contribute to the economic and social development of local communities through scientific research, applied research and advanced training and dissemination initiatives. The activities take place in agreement with the territory, in collaboration with local public and private institutions. There is a constant dialogue among FEEM and the key actors of the territory for the achievement of the common goal of a sustainable local development.

FEEM People

People and intellectual capital are FEEM's key resources. It is through the work of FEEM researchers and staff that FEEM disseminates knowledge and awareness of sustainable development.

FEEM works with institutions to support the economic and social fabric of our Country (**Principles from 1 to 6 and SDG 8**).

In 2019 there were 82 people working at FEEM, 57% of them were researchers. Rejecting any kind of discrimination, the gender audit yields a balanced mix in the organization: the 49% of FEEM people were women in 2019. The average age in 2019 shows that FEEM is a relatively "young" organization: 40 years.

FEEM pursues flexibility in its organization structure. FEEM stimulates its people to achieve personal goals and supports them in developing improved capacities.

Communication and dissemination

Communication activities are a strategic tool for the disclosure and dissemination of research themes and results. FEEM is internationally recognized for its publications – among which working papers occupy a prominent position – and, at national level, for the organization of events on issues of sustainable development in support of policy making, the private sector and informed public.

FEEM has published about 2,800 **Working Papers** (WP) since 1993.

Books represent another important channel for research dissemination activities. Currently FEEM publishes two editorial series on issues of sustainable development and global governance: an Italian series with Il Mulino (since 1993) and an English one with Edward Elgar (since 2001). Regarding dissemination activities to a wider audience, FEEM publishes the four-monthly journal on sustainable development, *Equilibri*, in collaboration with the university press Il Mulino. Moreover, FEEM launched in 2017 the Percorsi Series which publishes works on local or national projects and local reports.

The organization of **events** has always been a strategic activity for positioning the Foundation in the national and international debate, for disseminating the research outputs related to sustainable development and for developing the network and involving FEEM's target audiences: policy makers, academia and scientific community, enterprises, institutions and the wider public. In 2019 FEEM organized 78 events: 46 conferences, workshops and lectures and 32 seminars, webinars and other events.

Finally, FEEM has always been engaged in the organization of educational events for young people, particularly in training and developing the ideas coming from national and international talents. Training and support for scientific careers is achieved through the active participation (with both "incoming" and "outbound" researchers) to Marie Curie individual fellowship programs, but also through internships and through the organization of Summer Schools of high scientific value, such as the traditional European Summer School on Environmental Regulation, held every year in Venice. Moreover, FEEM believes that the youth can play an indispensable role in building a sustainable future. For that reason, since 2017 it collaborates with Fondazione Accenture, Fondazione Feltrinelli and Fondazione Allianz Umanamente on the "Youth in Action for SDGs" contest calling for sustainable solutions for Italy. Hundreds of millennials answer the call each year and several six-month private sector internships are awarded to help them realize their ideas.

Policy advocacy and partnerships

FEEM regularly maintains and develops interactions with the academic and research world – essential link to ensure research quality and scientific rigor – and renews the dialogue with the private sector, including Eni, public institutions and civil society, thanks to an intense networking activity (**SDG 17**).

FEEM supports public institutions through policy advocacy activities aimed at raising awareness on key issues of sustainable development and based on the results and on the scientific rigor of the research produced. With the business world, FEEM collaborates for creating sustainable value, supporting the private sector in the identification of the actions and tools needed to strengthen, monitor and report its contribution to sustainable development.

Finally, the Foundation actively involves civil society in the debate on the main international issues by organizing public events, involving some of the leading world experts, and training initiatives on FEEM research themes, and in particular on climate change, energy and social innovation.

Support to policy making at national and local level

At the national level, FEEM has contributed to policy making through a constant relationship with the Ministries. Moreover, FEEM actively participated in preliminary discussions and debates around the regionalization of the SDGs, creating and supporting institutional networks to spark a dialogue on the Agenda 2030 at the local level and participating in meetings with national and international working groups on the topic.

Finally, at local level, FEEM has supported the policy making process through a strict collaboration with local institutions for the sustainable development of the local territory (**SDGs 8 and 12, Principles 3, 4, 5, 6**). In particular, FEEM has a regional office in the Basilicata region since 2007 as part of an agreement signed by Eni for the exploitation of the oil and gas fields in the area. FEEM's mission is to contribute to the economic and social development of the region, and to support Eni in its plan to develop the local resources and skills through networking, research activities and advanced training. Human capital and innovation are key drivers of economic growth, and leveraging on the existing networks and skills is central to the process of local endogenous growth.

Networking

In order to promote knowledge and awareness and SDGs implications across the different components of Italian society, FEEM is constantly involved in research and dissemination activities that promote the understanding of the implications and opportunities arising from the 2030 Agenda for the different actors in order to stimulate the construction of a strategic framework for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development (**SDG 17**).

Since 2015 FEEM hosts **SDSN Italia**: the network has the goal of promoting SDGs in Italy by developing activities and projects consistent with international programs led by SDSN, particularly in the fields of education, test and collection of innovative practices on the various topics covered by 2030 Agenda, dissemination of solutions and tools developed in the academic, business and public organizations worlds. SDSN Italia also aims to promote dialogue between national, regional and global initiatives for the SDGs, through the dissemination of international excellence in Italy, but also through the international promotion of the experiences conducted by companies and organizations in our country. The Italian hub of the network also aims to foster dialogue among the subjects that wish to carry out concrete projects with a high impact on common objectives, favoring a positive relationship between academia and the private sector in the context of a coherent strategy for Italy. With the aim of concretizing the 2030 Agenda within the national context, in 2017 FEEM, in collaboration with SDSN Italia started developing *ad hoc* tools for the public administration, to link its activities to the Agenda 2030.

FEEM can ensure the creation of useful synergies between the two networks, in particular to support the contribution of Italian companies to SDGs, also as a founding member and as the Italian office of the **Global Compact Network Italia** Foundation (GCNI) since 2013, and as an active member of the **Alleanza per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile** (ASviS), a national network that brings together civil society networks and aims to raise awareness of the importance of the 2030 Agenda in Italian economic entities, institutions and society.

Following the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development as a key means of implementation recognized by the United Nations to effectively achieve the Goals, FEEM has strongly promoted an alliance between ASviS, Global Compact Network Italia and SDSN Italia with the aim to raise awareness of all institutional, economic and social actors on the national territory for promoting actions that contribute to an effective achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Thanks to this network of partnerships, as well as to research and dissemination activities, FEEM contributes to the concrete implementation of

the 10 Principles of the Global Compact and, in particular, to the realization of the implementation strategy of the Sustainable Development Goals.