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**United Nations Global Compact Communications on Progress (COP)**

**Message from our Executive Vice President – 17th December 2020**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the world faced a new situation that has not been experienced before. As the habits of societies are radically changing, people around the world are now discussing how long this forced change will continue, or whether there will be a return to the order we once knew. People's retreat to their homes to prevent the spread of the outbreak, this situation has led to some improvements in favor of our tired old planet; however these are minor and they do not conceal the fact that the world is facing a multi-faceted crisis in social, economic and ecological terms. Moreover, the pandemic is thought to make people more vulnerable to the gradually increasing climate crisis. In light of this, let's not forget that life at large is dynamic, and humanity has always used its creativity to find various solutions after every disaster in the past. Once the world overcomes this critical threshold, we will build a new era together.

As Unilever, we have the historical heritage of being a brand that works intending to reach a wider consumer range with nutritional and hygiene products since the establishment of the company Lever in the 1890s, where our roots extend. During this time, we have gone through many experiences of crisis, both locally and globally. After surviving two world wars, we have become a part of the reconstruction of Europe. During a natural disaster, a rapidly spreading pandemic, increase in poverty as a result of a severe economic crisis or war, the priority is always ensuring access to food and hygiene. For the past 130 years, we have been contributing to meeting these needs with our products. From lifesaving soap to life-changing products, we have been the pioneer of many innovations. In our rapidly changing world, each day, we seek to find what more we can do and continue to discover.

As Unilever, we have been trying to make sustainability a part of our business model for the last decade. While creating a transformation in our value chain with the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, we also support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In this respect, I would once more like to highlight our determined commitment to the ten guiding principles of the UN Global Compact.

By combining our heritage in hygiene and nutrition with our 10 year global strength and local experience in sustainability, we hope to overcome challenges altogether. Our responsibility does not solely lie with our investors and stakeholders. We need to do what is best for our consumers, clients, society and the world of which we are a part. We believe that the Sustainable Life Plan is a positive reference that reflects Unilever's success and progress within the last decade and that, collectively, we can build a better future.

Yours sincerely,



**Mustafa Seçkin**

Executive Vice President, Turkey, Central Asia and Iran