



## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 01/01/2019

To: 31/12/2020

### Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

*1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2021*

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that WeWorld Onlus reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours

Dina Taddia – CEO and Legal Representative



## Part II. Description of Actions

During the last two years our organization GVC has merged with another Italian ONG called WeWorld; from this process we resulted in the new WeWorld-GVC Foundation, a natural transformation of the previous entities. GVC, non-governmental organization founded in Bologna in 1971, operating in Italy and in over 20 countries worldwide in the field of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid; WeWorld, founded in Milan in 1999, active in Italy and 7 other countries worldwide to support and protect women and children. Together, WeWorld-GVC Foundation (“WeWorld”) works in 29 Countries, with 128 projects, reaching over 2.4 million direct beneficiaries and 12.3 million indirect beneficiaries. This merger has increased our ability to strengthen development cooperation and humanitarian aid work with local communities.

WeWorld-GVC Foundation inherits the expertise and sound experience of the two previous entities. Despite the long process of transformation that has invested our organization, our commitment to the promotion of the ten principles of Global Compact initiative has been carried out with good results as explained in the following parts.

### 1- Engage with Global Compact Local Networks

- During the last two years we have been keeping in contact with the Italian Global Compact Network, and in 2021, we want to identify and get in touch with Local Networks of the countries in which we operate on the Global Compact issues, such as Cambodia, Bolivia and Peru.

### 2- Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability

- In the last two years, WeWorld continued to work on two projects in South-East Asia, dealing with the human and labour rights of Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand, and funded by the European Union.
  - The first project, **Mig-Right**, implemented in Cambodia and Thailand, started in 2017 and ended in 2020. Its focus was on supporting and advocating Cambodian migrants’ rights in Thailand, preventing violations and human trafficking. It aimed at reinforcing cross border collaboration to protect Cambodian worker migrants in Thailand, and it supported the authorities of the two countries at different levels – from local to regional (ASEAN) – with training and networking activities to promote more appropriate policies and regulations for the prevention and protection of victims. Adopting a gender-based perspective, this project was built around three important messages: Right – Respect – Dignity, to better address actions of specific needs and constraints of vulnerable target groups. Right: raising awareness among Cambodian migrants about their rights and safe migration practices; ensuring beneficiaries are aware of the risks connected to irregular migration. Respect: informing about the current legal instruments to fight irregular migration, labour exploitation and human trafficking and to protect migrant workers; strengthening Cambodian and Thai authorities’ capacity to enforce the legislation. Dignity: promoting rights and respect to the public; raising awareness among EU and ASEAN institutions on trafficking in persons and labour exploitation; empowering Civil Society Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations to advocate for migrants’ rights. Mig-Right activates community responses through self-help groups among migrants and the identification of social ambassadors, strengthens civil society



organizations in their right-watching and advocacy actions, and increases public awareness of labour migrants' rights through communication campaigns.

- The second project, **Right-To-Work**, is still ongoing, and it aims at promoting and protecting the labour rights of low skilled Cambodian migrant workers to Thailand, including a safe and secure working environment. In particular, the project focuses on increasing culture of labour right protection for the most vulnerable migrants, such as young and women, irregular, unskilled, at risk of working abuses, forced labour and new form of slavery. At the same time, the activities contribute in improving the efficiency of existing system of working migration to make the regular channel more convenient for migrants in terms of respecting their human and labour rights.
- In the frame of the two mentioned projects, we implemented a number of community self-help initiatives to promote rights of migrant workers, and increase the awareness against labour exploitation and abuses.
- We implemented the platform [www.migra-info.org](http://www.migra-info.org), in collaboration with a high number of donors and partners, including ILO, IOM and UN-ACT, in order to promote migrant issues in South-East Asia. The website is a tool, addressed to different targets to provide information, from news to studies and laws, sources, migrants' stories and tools for action. In particular, a section is addressed to migrants to promote their regular migration, providing them with information about migration documents, services' contacts, tips and recruitment agencies.
- In April 2019 we organized an International Exchange Visit for Dialogue in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This international conference focused on cross border cooperation on labour migration and human trafficking between Cambodia and Thailand, and it represented an exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices toward the protection of Cambodian migrant workers. In particular, it aimed at offering a room for dialogue to strengthen the cooperation between Cambodian and Thai Institutions, promoting a high-level exchange of analysis, policies and practices among key actors involved in the promotion of safe channels of labour migration and their fair employment, such as representatives of the Thai and Cambodian Governments, EU Delegations, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and private sector. Among the participants we could include the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation in Cambodia, the Secretary of State and Permanent Vice-Chair person of NCCT (National Committee for Counter Trafficking) of Cambodia, the General Directors of the Ministry of Labour of Cambodia and Thailand, the Executive Director of Association of the Private Recruitment Agencies (APRA), the National Coordinators of UN-ACT and ILO Cambodia, High Representatives of other Ministries and Local Authorities. Representatives of companies in the major sectors of employment of migrant workers have taken part as well as the network of private recruitment agency (ACRA). At the end of the conference a final document was prepared, shared by all the participants, with findings from the discussion and recommendations for action to tackle the migrant exploitation and trafficking.
- We issued a study on Labour Migration and Human Trafficking, conducted in cooperation with the ATI (Asian Technologic Institute of Bangkok). It is an analysis of laws, regulation, policies and practices in Thailand and Cambodia, highlighting challenging problems that contributes in labour migrant exploitation practices, such as continued preference for



irregular channels, non-standardised costs, capacity building for front line officers, lack of coordination, exploitation practices of recruitment and employment from private sector. It makes recommendations to governments, civil society and private sector of both countries, to tackle these issues. An update of this research, developed in 2020, is underway, and it will be published in the next two months.

Moreover in India carried out a project against the child migrant labour.

- For what concerns Latin America, in 2020 a new project in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador has been presented and approved by the European Union: **“Alianza de Oro: Experiencia Andina de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos frente a la Actividad Minera”**. The goal of the project is to contribute to the reduction of the adverse effects of the activities of mining companies on individual and collective human rights of rural communities in these countries, and to promote the application by mining companies of good mining practices, respecting the UN Guiding Principles and the rights of the affected populations. As results, the representatives and defenders of the rights of the communities will act throughout the chain of mining activity demanding respect for the rights and the generation of benefits for them; sub-national governments will be active protagonists of the governance of the mining sector in their territory, within the framework of their competence; national and international public opinion will exert vigilance and pressure on companies and States in relation to the application of due diligence mechanisms and respect for human rights.

Furthermore initiatives to promote inclusive business to promote environmental and social resilience have been carried out in different areas of Latin America, North Africa and Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- At the European level, two projects started in 2020, focused on climate change and migration issues as results of the unsustainable economic system exploiting nature and people. The projects are funded by the European Commission under the DEAR programme (Development Education and Awareness Raising):
  - **#ClimateOfChange**. It is an initiative lead by WeWorld-GVC taken by 16 European organizations – among which civil society organisations, universities and NGOs – led by WeWorld. The goal is to create a European network of young people who work together to call for collective change, at local, national and European level.  
The project is structured in four main steps. 1- A research on the concept of Human Economy, to highlight the problems of a non-sustainable production system, the interconnections between production and consumption patterns in Europe and what happens in the countries most affected by the effects of climate change, where people are forced to migrate. 2- Increased awareness, through a competition for young people, based on debates about climate change and migration. 3- A pan-European communication campaign, to involve citizens on many levels, online and live, to be aware on the issues of exploitation system provoking climate change and in turn climate migration and unfair labour and life conditions for migrants and vulnerable groups. 4- Advocacy activities, involving youth and all the partners at local, national and European level, in order to make their voice heard and participate in the debate on the effects of climate change. In particular, we carry out an advocacy activity to promote the approval



of mandatory Human Rights and Environment Due Diligence for business, companies and financial institutions, operating or offering a product/service, within the EU. Such legislation should establish a corporate duty to respect human rights and the environment, and requires companies and financial institutions to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for abuses and harm in their domestic and global operations, activities, products, services, supply chains and exports. The legislation should hold such companies legally accountable and provide access to justice for victims.

- **GoEathics– #Our Food Our Future.** This project involves 16 organizations, with the objective of creating and mobilizing a movement of young European citizens asking for a new production and consumption model, characterized by sustainable food supply chains that respect the rights of migrant workers and mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as reducing key drivers of migration, as hunger and poverty, by modifying those production-consumption models that perpetuate inequalities and land/water grabbing. Among other activities, also in this project WeWorld participates to the advocacy campaign related to the promotion of the mandatory Human Rights and Environment Due Diligence, and other important initiatives in the frame of the main European campaigns, such as “Farm2Fork”.
- WeWorld takes part to other advocacy actions addressed to European Members of Parliament, related to the two projects mentioned above, regarding climate change, ethical production systems and the fight against the exploitation of migrant workers. All these actions are composed by three pillars – research, survey and campaign – and promote the engagement of young people.
- For what concerns Africa and the Middle-East, we promote eco-sustainable agriculture activities and techniques in favour of small farmers, and the improvement of their capability, with a special focus on women’s rights.
- We take part to the World Banana Forum (WBF) – FAO, working-group on the promotion of ethical production of tropical fruit, aiming at respecting workers’ rights, and in particular women workers’ rights.
- We take part to other national networks in Italy, such as the working group of Business& Human Rights, the Inter-ministerial Committee of Human Rights (CIDU), that itself deals with the topic of Business and Human Rights.
- We give great importance to the fight against corruption and the promotion of the culture of transparency within our organization. We have signed the Charter of Principles, Values and Commitments towards Accountability promoted by LINK2007 Network Cooperation. We enforce an Organizational Model of management and control, in accordance with Italian Legislative Decree 231/01. We have committed to the Code of Ethics and Conduct, identifying shared ethical values, rights, duties and responsibilities; the Anti-fraud and Anticorruption Policy, to prevent and manage phenomena linked to fraud and corruption; the Safety & Prevention Policy, essential guidelines to ensure operator safety and protection; the Child Protection Policy, to promote the well-being and development of children; the Safety & Prevention Policy against Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Harassment, to strengthen and promote measures in the work environment against all forms of exploitation and sexual abuse; the Environmental Protection Policy, to safeguard the environment, principles, good practices and standards of conduct; the Counter-Terrorism Policy, to counter all improper



use or misappropriation of funds and avoid any direct or indirect support to terrorist activities.

- After the merger, our organization has seen the development of a trade union representation, who with a specific contract agreement will be signed, and on the other side, is part of a working table on security protocols, especially during the COVID crisis.

### **3- Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues**

- As part of our project activities mentioned above, we engage many private actors and companies, in line with the intended goals. Private recruitment agencies in Cambodia and big fishing companies in Thailand, employing migrant labour, have been involved in our activities in South-East Asia; mining companies will be involved in our project in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.
- The private sector has been engaged in many campaigns, aiming at corporate social responsibility. For example, we promote corporate volunteering actions engaging companies' staff in the activities of our women's anti-violence centres, and we involved the Italian professional football industry (Lega Serie A) in a viral campaign against gender violence ("Un Rosso alla Violenza": [www.weworld.it/unrossoallaviolenza](http://www.weworld.it/unrossoallaviolenza) ).
- In the framework of the Shaping Fair Cities project, funded by the European Commission under the DEAR programme, and led by Emilia-Romagna Region – whose goal is to localize the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development – we involved several companies, workers and trade-unionists on training and workshops to fight climate change and gender violence issues.

### **4- Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams**

- In the framework of our projects, we take part to important advocacy campaigns, such as the one that promotes the Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence draft law, and the European initiative "Farm2Fork" (see above).
- We participate in various networks and work streams on the Global Compact issues, such as a working group at the World Banana Forum (WBF) – FAO, and international cooperation and cooperatives at Alleanza delle Cooperative, in Italy and in the countries in which we operate (see above).

### **5- Provide commentary to companies on Communications on Progress**

- We have an ongoing partnership with Lines, a company that produces sanitary pads, in order to promote the abolition of the tampon tax in Italy: we built together the advocacy and communication campaign, which led to the spread of TV commercials nationwide.

### **6- Participate in Global Compact global, and local events**

- For the moment, we have not participated in Global Compact events yet; after this consolidation phase of the new organization, our goal is to tighten and deepen the current relationships with Global Compact Network at Italian level, and to cultivate new ones at the national and international level, to promote common activities and take part to Global Compact events especially in Latin America and South East Asia where we mostly work on the topics of concern.



### **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

#### **NUMBER OF AUTHORITIES, COMPANIES, CSOs, TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY INITIATIVE AND EXCHANGE DIALOGUE ON THE HUMAN AND LABOUR RIGHTS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION\*:**

- *Advocacy initiatives in Cambodia and Thailand – 50 initiatives, 800 people involved (EU Delegation, UN agencies, Cambodian and Thai Government, CSOs, Academia, Private companies).*
- *Advocacy initiatives at European level on sustainable production, and protection against impact of Climate Change on most vulnerable countries – 2, 35 people (MEPs, EU officials and experts, CSOs).*

#### **NUMBER OF CITIZENS AND GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE INCREASED AWARENESS IN THE LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS according to the UN Global Compact Principles\*:**

- *2 awareness and communication campaigns in Cambodia and Thailand: 1,510,760 people.*
- *1 awareness and communication campaigns in India: 2,685 people.*

#### **NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS STARTED TO PROMOTE HUMAN AND LABOUR RIGHTS OF WORKERS, MIGRANTS WORKERS, AND ACTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS) according to the UN Global Compact Principles and NUMBER OF NEW PARTNERSHIP\*:**

- *8 new projects.*
- *49 new partnerships.*

#### **NUMBER OF COMPANIES AND THEIR STAFF INVOLVED IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES\*:**

- *30 enterprises have financed projects and campaigns to promote human rights, and sustainable development carried out by WeWorld around the world.*
- *8 enterprises have taken part to activities of awareness and volunteering promoted by WeWorld involving their 170 people of their staff.*

#### **NUMBER OF CSOs, TRADE UNIONS, and PEOPLE INCREASED THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ON THE ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION IN TERMS OF PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, RIGHTS INCLUDED GENDER RIGHTS AND LABOUR RIGHTS\*:**

- *Labour and human rights of migrant workers in Cambodia and Thailand: 745 people (CSOs – CBOs, Local Authorities).*
- *Environmental production and protection: 7989 people (CSOs – CBOs, Local Authorities, Experts).*
- *Business and Environmental Rights in Italy: 43 (3 local authorities, 4 CSOs, 36 Trade Unionists)*
- *Gender and Labour issues in Italy: 237 (3 institutions, 50 CSOs, 127 Trade Unionists, 12 companies, 42 students).*

*\*Data on 2020 are not yet consolidated, therefore some underestimation could have been occurred.*