

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



The Asia Foundation

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: February 19, 2018

To: February 19, 2021

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that The Asia Foundation 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,

David Arnold
President and Chief Executive Officer

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found here.

On November 26, 2019, David Arnold, The Asia Foundation's President and Chief Executive Officer and David Reid, Director of Foundation and Corporate Philanthropy met with the UNGC team in New York. The UNGC team shared their list of local network leaders in 14 countries in Asia where The Asia Foundation has country offices. These contacts were shared with The Asia Foundation's country representatives and deputy country representatives in each country.

On January 7, 2020, Jane Sloane, The Asia Foundation's Senior Director, Women's Empowerment Program and David Reid, Direction of Foundation and Corporate Philanthropy met with head of programming, Lauren Gula at UNGC's headquarters in New York.

In January 2020, UNGC's contact person for the *Global Compact Network Bangladesh*, Mr. Sayeed Mohammad Musabbir Sheen, contacted The Asia Foundation's Country Representative in Bangladesh, Mr. Faisal Seraj, regarding the Target Gender Equality Initiative. Mr. Sheen requested him to engage as an expert and provide insights to corporate members of the Global Compact Network in Bangladesh.

The Asia Foundation's Country Representative to India, Ms. Nandita Baruah, is part of UNGC's advisory group in *Global Compact Network India* (GCNI). Ms. Baruah has participated in their events as a speaker and recently spoke at the GCNI 15th National Convention on the theme 'Raising the SDG Ambition-Pathways for Sustainable Recovery and Growth' held on February 4-5, 2021. The event included over 1500 participants from India and across the world and was the first-ever virtual national convention of GCNI. Ms. Baruah spoke on a panel titled "Self-Reliant and Sustainable India: Opportunities to Revitalize and Grow 12 Priority Sectors."

Our country office in Vietnam is connected to many Global Compact partners in Vietnam through the American Chamber of Commerce and the European Chamber of Commerce.

David Reid attended a number of UNGC events in 2020, including the Uniting Business Live Event (September 21-23). He is also registered to attend the Target Gender Equality Live Event on March 16, 2021.

Part III. Measurement of 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.

- Expertise provided by The Asia Foundation to UNGC corporate members in Bangladesh for the Target Gender Equality Initiative.
- Expertise provided to UNGC's advisory group in Global Compact Network India (GCNI) on sustainable recovery and growth in India, which reached over 1500 participants in India and globally.