



The Voice of the **Off-Grid Solar Energy** Industry

GOGLA
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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: March 2019 – April 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

Amsterdam, 25 March 2021

Dear GOGLA Stakeholders,

I am pleased to reaffirm our continued support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the area 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.

GOGLA also commits to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,
Koen Peters

Executive Director
Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)

Part II. Description of Actions

GOGLA is the global association for the off-grid solar energy industry. Established in 2012, GOGLA now represents 200 members as a neutral, independent, not-for-profit industry association. Our services assist the industry to build sustainable markets and profitable businesses delivering quality, affordable off-grid electricity products and services to as many customers as possible across the developing world. Our Members are currently serving over 100 million people around the world.

In an enabling environment the off-grid solar industry can scale to provide affordable solar power products and services to provide electricity to the 840 million people currently living without energy by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7. Off-grid solar products and services are also a solution for the estimated 1 billion people with weak grid connections.

The off-grid solar industry needs to deliver quality, affordable products and services to households, businesses and communities in challenging developing markets. This requires coordinated support, the right partnerships, resources, and services to help its businesses scale sustainably and at speed to help address one of the most crucial sustainability challenges.

Our work therefore engages members on Global Compact related issues and attracts new participants to the UN Global Compact and we maintain our willingness to provide our expertise and voice to Global Compact working groups and initiatives.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

- GOGLA is leading the initiative to develop a **Consumer Protection Code** for the off-grid solar sector with the aim of safeguarding impacts and respecting rights of consumers. The Code establishes the de facto industry standard for consumer protection that adds value to off-grid solar companies, investors and other stakeholders. Off-grid solar companies offer a strong value proposition to consumers and the sector is delivering significant and measurable social, economic and environmental benefits. As the industry expands and innovates with new products, services and business models the industry has a profound interest to ensure sustained and healthy market growth. It is imperative that we recognise and proactively manage the potential risks to consumers to safeguard impact, build strong brands and retain the full confidence of investors and governments. The Consumer Protection Code consists of a set of principles and an assessment framework to enable companies to measure, demonstrate and improve their practices, and provide investors and other stakeholders with a framework to promote good practice. The Principles represent the minimum standards of practice consumers should expect from an off-grid solar company.
- GOGLA coordinates the **Circularity Working Group** - a group of 30+ companies, investors and sector stakeholders - with the aim of identifying and share good practice in the industry, coordinating activities and consulting on policy and programs. The group has recently rebranded (from E-waste) to reflect the industry's efforts on circularity - namely to extend product life, enhance reparability and refurbishment, and promote take-back, collection and recycling. Circularity offers opportunity for enhanced value for consumers and local/national entrepreneurship. GOGLA has worked with members and partners to engage with e-waste policy and regulation in a number of countries in sub-saharian africa and we continue to advise a number of large sector support players and programs on industry practices and policy recommendations.
- The GOGLA **Impact Metrics** allow companies, investors, policymakers, multi-lateral institutions, non-government organizations, and other sector stakeholders to estimate the impacts created by off-grid solar lighting products and appliances in a consistent, clear, and coherent manner. The metrics help build the evidence base for the many benefits that off-grid solar lighting and high-performing appliances unlock for people previously living in energy poverty.
- GOGLA is committed to perform its business operations by applying the highest of standards of integrity and ethical conduct as set out in our policies and **Code of Conduct**. We ask our members and partners to also embrace these policies and values. GOGLA has issued **Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility** which all members are asked to accept and endorse as part of their membership obligations; members are also encouraged to join the Global Compact. Further byelaws encourage responsible behaviour from GOGLA staff and members through its Code of Conduct, Gender Representation Policy, and the (upcoming) policies on Anti-Bribery, Anti-Money and Anti-Corruption and Whistleblowing.