



Communication on Engagement (COE)

Stichting Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) 30/05/2018 – 1/04/2021

To our stakeholders,

Since 2003, GRI has been a signatory of the UN Global Compact (UNGC). In 2013, UNGC invited all non-business participants to issue a Communication on Engagement (COE) every two years. This document contains a statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact, a description of practical actions with regard to the principles of the UN Global Compact and a measurement of outcomes or expected outcomes.

In the period from 2018 to end of 2020, we have engaged on a number of projects with UN Global Compact both the global office and the local networks.

One of our major engagements is the partnership on the Action Platform Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consisting of a Corporate Action Group and a Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee that ran from 2017-2020¹.

Over the four years of the program, we had 59 business participants from 23 countries participate in the Corporate Action Group and hosted 17 meetings/Labs, 11 online and six in person.

Further we convened a high-level group of partners in the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee consisting of 45 members from different regions and organizations, advising the Action Platform on their personal capacity and bringing thought leadership on private sector engagement in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development. We hosted 11 MAC meetings over the past four years, including in-person meetings organized in connection with the meeting of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Despite having formally ended, we have agreed with UNGC to continue this platform informally to bring together key stakeholders during the HLPF meetings in New York.

The Action Platform Reporting on the SDGs developed thought leadership and guidance for companies to effectively integrate the SDGs into their reporting processes and resulted in the following tools and publications:

- [An Analysis of the Goals and Targets](#) (2017)
- [Integrating the SDGs into Corporate Reporting: A Practical Guide](#) (2018)
- [In-focus: Addressing Investor Needs in Business Reporting on the SDGs](#) (2018)

¹ The information related to the Action Platform Reporting on the SDGs will cover the full program period from 2017 to end of 2020.

Including translations of some of the guides into multiple languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Bahasa Indonesian, Thai and Turkish. Around the action platform and the publications an extensive communication plan was implemented and coordinated with UNGC.

In addition to the three publications, the series of 'Examples of corporate reporting practices' was developed to help businesses and interested stakeholders identify current corporate SDG reporting practices. The aim of the case studies is to deepen understanding about relevant aspects of corporate reporting on the SDGs. The series was developed by the UN Global Compact and GRI, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. A joint GRI/PwC/UNGC training on the SDG reporting tools was also developed and implemented at country level in 2020 (seven countries: Colombia, Mexico, Italy, Austria, Germany, Indonesia, UK and around 700 professionals trained).

GRI continues to be represented in the UN Global Compact Expert Network and participated in the UN Global Compact Leaders' Summits during the reporting period. We are part of the Action Platform on Climate Ambition and have attended an UN Global Compact local network meeting to present on Business and Human Rights.

In the reporting period GRI has also engaged with UNGC in the (preliminary) discussions as well provided input on update of the Communication on Progress and the importance of alignment with existing standards and reporting frameworks.

GRI recognizes the important role of "non-business" (academia, business associations, cities, NGOs, labor and public sector organizations) in sustainable development and the achievement of the 10 UNGC Principles. GRI is committed to continue our fruitful collaboration with the UNGC and support to the Ten Principles as a set of values to run a sustainable and responsible business. These principles inspire companies to respect human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption. We embrace this opportunity to showcase the ways which GRI engage with UNGC and will proudly make this commitment letter available on our main website.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Paul van de Wijs

Chief External Affairs Officer, GRI