

# COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Asociación Civil Hecho por Nosotros



HECHO POR NOSOTROS

Period covered by this Communication  
on Engagement:

April 2019 - April 2021

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# ABOUT US

Hecho por Nosotros is a non-profit NGO transforming the textile and fashion industry into a force for good and well-being for all. We are educating and doing research to understand the industry and its problems better, in order to find comprehensive solutions for creating a new paradigm in the fashion and textile industry, based in sustainability and regenerative models. We are committed to influencing decision makers at the national, regional and at the highest international level – to bring the injustices that are prevalent in the fashion industry into the spotlight, and to eventually work together for a sustainable future. Our work is strongly linked to natural fibers, sustainable development, local development - initiatives that have a positive impact on the environment, local development, economy and social well-being.

The three areas of our work are: local development especially in the Andean rural communities; development of camelids fibre value chains and markets; and advancing sustainable textile industry through research and education.

We have been working towards these goals for a decade now, and are proud to have collaborated with over 80 organisations up to date. Our advocacy program includes ECOSOC consultative status as well as consulting and collaborating with various international organisations such as UNIDO, CEPAL, ITC. We have worked with various organisations in the sphere of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and local governments, business partners and other stakeholders. Hecho por Nosotros has an important role to promote and protect sustainability not only in the textile industry, but in all global value chains and beyond.

Our work is endorsed by ASHOKA, GlobalizerX, and Fabric of Change, all programs advancing and uniting sustainability actions, and we are consulting for sustainable fashion industry and sustainable development at the local, regional and international level (local governments, UN bodies such as CEPAL, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ECOSOC-DESA).

# OUR VALUES & PRINCIPLES



To promote respect for human beings, culture and environment.

To value what the other have to offer and empower them together.



To build a community where working together is a daily action.

To promote dialogue and equity for an exchange of knowledge and opportunities.



To generate inclusion.

To recognize our roots, our history, our past, our culture through our love for it.





# Part I.

## Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

To our stakeholders,

On behalf of Hecho por Nosotros, I am pleased to confirm that our NGO reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. We welcome feedback on its contents.

Our actions are embedded in collaborative models towards achieving a sustainable and resilient future, creating awareness and exemplifying in principle and actions. In the present Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact, 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adriana Marina', is positioned above the printed name.

Adriana Marina  
Founder of Hecho por Nosotros  
Buenos Aires, April 2021

## Part II.

# Description of Actions

Hecho por Nosotros has been working over a decade now to build a new paradigm in the textile, leather and fashion industry, based on Sustainable Development Goals. Hecho por Nosotros has made the SDGs the core of our projects and day-to-day operations. We have built a research database for small and middle scale artisans, to make access to sustainable techniques more widespread, hosted events and panels to bring discussion and innovation to the fashion industry, and made Agenda 2030 more visible in the private and public sector, becoming a regional example when it comes to sustainability. Our network extends to more than 80 organisations, with whom we have collaborated to make sustainable practices more widely accessible in the textile industry.

The global fashion industry represents one of the worst abusers of both human rights and the environment. Waste in the form of microplastics and toxic synthetic fibres results from this industry, polluting water and contributing to landfills. The carbon dioxide emissions from fashion and textile production are also notable, contributing to global climate change. We strive to promote circular economic models, where instead of consuming and wasting, reusing and recycling is the dominant paradigm. To achieve this and to continue promoting the UN Global Compact, we have taken the following actions.

### Engaging with Global Compact Local Networks

Bringing strategies for sustainable production to local networks is one of the foundational goals of Hecho por Nosotros. We have designed workshops, databases, and outreach programs, working closely with artisans to revive ancient techniques and practices which are kinder to the earth and workers. Our work with artisans also relates to accessing global markets. One issue Hecho por Nosotros has identified within the global fashion industry is that small and middle sized producers don't have access to global markets because those markets are dominated by fast-fashion whose production costs tend to be less.

## **Engaging Companies in Global Compact-related issues**

Hecho por Nosotros has a wide-reaching network, and many of our collaborators have been businesses and companies. We know that there are many inspired and passionate business people who work hard to develop sustainable and ethical practices for their brands, and one of our goals is to help build a platform for them. At the same time, there are many companies for whom such techniques are a dream—desirable, yet inaccessible. For these creators, Hecho por Nosotros has built workshops, trained artists directly, and held seminars, webinars, and conferences to highlight the work of such artisans.

## **Joining and/or Supporting Special Initiatives and Work Streams**

Hecho por Nosotros has participated in many activities which support the special initiatives and work streams as outlined in the UN Global Compact's Global Impact Initiatives. The first of these initiatives that Hecho por Nosotros actively supports is the Initiative to End Gender Inequality. The fashion industry tends to be dominated by women; especially among textile and factory workers in developing countries. Fighting for rights for these workers is fighting for women's rights.

Another focus of the Global Impact Initiatives is tapping into the power of young innovators and change-makers, encouraging and supporting the endeavors of sustainably-minded young leaders. Hecho por Nosotros has collaborated with and supported many young people within the fashion industry. Furthermore, we have hosted events and panels to support the initiative, encouraging discussion about the future of the fashion industry and how we can move toward more circular economies and regenerative practices.

## **Participate in Global Compact Global and Local Events**

The wide-reaching international network of Hecho por Nosotros has made it possible for us to actively participate in a range of UN Global Compact events. Many Hecho por Nosotros leaders have been panelists at a variety of outreach events, both locally and globally, in person and virtually.

# Part III.

## Measurement of Outcomes

Hecho por Nosotros has been able to contribute to the SDGs in multiple facets. First, our goal to empower local, small and medium entrepreneurs and artisans, has been successful in increasing the number of sustainable options there are on the global fashion market. Between 2019 and 2021 we were able to increase our reach to over 630 new MSMEs who believe in the values of the Global Compact. Our work has broadened the way many people see the fashion industry and increased awareness of areas in which change is necessary.

The last two years have been difficult for many organizations due to the pandemic, and for a wide-reaching international organization like Hecho por Nosotros, the consequences have been challenging. However, our operations have adjusted; we've hosted virtual events and participated in panels remotely, we've fortunately been able to fully digitize our operations. This has enabled us to continue collaborating with individuals and organizations around the globe despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

### Headline Figures

## 2019

- Our network of artisans reached 7,800.
- We collaborated with a network of 300 MSMEs.
- 600 new artisans were reached in Argentina, 100 in Peru and 50 in Bolivia.
- We worked with 150 organizations around the world.
- Volunteers and interns contributed more than 62,500 hours.
- We hosted more than 20 events, including 5 events at the UN, where we also gave an oral statement at the high-level political forum.

## 2020

- Our network of artisans reached 8.100.
- We hosted more than 60 events (seminars, webinars, conferences and workshops), reaching 6,470 people.
- We have worked along with 500 collaborators across 34 countries, who spent more than 150,000 working on HxN projects.
- Via our Platform Toolkit HxN “Igniting circular and sustainable fashion through collaboration”, we provided indirect training to 3,800 artisans and members of vulnerable communities.
- We have worked with more than 30 universities in collaborative research.
- More than 45 press releases, 1 academic article published by Palermo University’s journal titled **‘Habitus and technological openness through the inclusion of blockchain in the original artisan communities of the Andes’** and 1 book titled **‘Sustainability and Latin American Fashion’**, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

### Expertise provided to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in your country

## 2019

From October 2019, we managed the six-month University of Arts and Crafts program in the Northwest and Cuyo regions of Argentina. This received financial support from the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina, and focused on capacity building, traceability, transparency, networking and other related training activities for five communities. Through this programme, we reached 600 new artisans and 30 MSMEs.

We hosted a number of seminars and webinars. Through these events, we hosted 30 leaders in sustainability and participated as speakers in 23 seminars. In May 2019, we organized the Upcycling and Talks Festival in Buenos Aires, where we brought attention to the importance of sustainable consumption. These seminars go far to not only educate but prompt action among people, who can drive their governments to make better decisions about the climate and industry.

We have been selected to participate in WISE mentorship (Women in STEM Entrepreneurship). Wise is an IAE Business School and BID initiative, leading its activities through the BID Lab innovative laboratory.

Hecho x Nosotros and B Corp animaná were chosen as models for systemic change in the Ashoka Globalizer International Council as part of the Dela Accelerator Program, jointly run by IKEA and Ashoka.

Throughout 2020 we have been creating courses for public, fashion designers, professionals, and MSEMs with an aim to enhance awareness of consumers sustainable fashion and to create practical tools to put in practice circular fashion and incubate new ideas.

Via our **Platform Toolkit HxN “Igniting circular and sustainable fashion through collaboration”**, we are currently providing training for the first time in an indirect way through online courses and consultancy sessions to search for sustainable solutions. The HxN Toolkit was co-created by 20 experts with the assistance of 300 collaborators, to create a social business model by implementing new technologies.

## **Concrete actions taken by UN Global Compact Business Participants**

With our sister B corp, we annually commercialize more than 4,000 products created handmade by artisans, working within integrated local value chains, that respect the environment and generate a source of regular income. These businesses are often overlooked in global supply chains, but they are incredibly important to the economies of developing nations and to the mission to increase sustainable business practices in the fashion industry.

## Partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles

### 2019

We received financial support from the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina, in order to give capacity building, traceability, transparency, networking and related capacity building activities for six months to five communities. However, the aforementioned was suspended in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding lockdown in the country.

In a long-term cooperation with WEF (The World Economic Forum), we have been joining panels of actors for the “Design with Responsible Intention (2019-2020) project. The aim of the cooperation is to share insights and facilitate the exchange of a new initiative that will convene business leaders, designers, educators, and civil society across the fashion value chain to accelerate the adoption of responsible design.

We began a cooperation with the NGO Redress to promote a circular future for fashion. Through his cooperation, we promote knowledge exchange between the two organizations.

### 2020

Through the University, Hecho x Nosotros launched a two month-long workshop, called ‘Systemic Change, Sustainable Development and Social Innovation’, in order to find sustainable solutions to current social, economical and environmental problems. 40 + professionals contributed to the development of the projects and 60 + participants attended the workshop.

In 2020 we launched a consultancy programme dedicated to small and medium-sized enterprises with an aim to find sustainable solutions. We worked with MSMEs from Argentina, Mexico, India, Nigeria and Ghana.



As part of our partnerships with different universities, throughout 2019 and 2020, Hecho x Nosotros received interns from The University of Pennsylvania's Global Research and Internship Program (GRIP). We receive interns from other relevant universities around the world, such as University of San Diego—in 2020 we worked with 30 students in our facilities conducting remote internships. HxN works with more than 30 universities in collaborative research.

## **January - March 2021 reviewed**

### Hecho x Nosotros University's Webinars

During the first three months of the year, we have developed and participated in new webinars for the public, supported by professionals of international level. This is how in January we had the opportunity to participate in three seminars: "Defining sustainable fashion", "Standards and Certifications" and "Waterless Indigo Dyeing".

Later in February, our founder, Adriana Marina, gave a talk about the importance of being transparent, in a "Deep Talk be clear". On this occasion, Adriana shared the cases of animaná and Hecho x Nosotros, and how her path has been gestated over the last 15 years, this was the first of a series of conversations with national and international speakers, who seek to share experiences on sustainable consumption, ethical responsibility in companies, marketing strategies, among others.

### University of Crafts Arts: Training for artisans

In February, the first collaborative and capacity building platform between micro, small and medium enterprises, together with eco-designers from all over the world, began. It is a long-term project, which will be developed between artisans from Peru, Bolivia and Argentina, together with fashion designers, experts in the market, economy, marketing and finance. The training will be 70% online and 30% face-to-face (insofar as the health situation allows), and will be backed by virtual badges that will provide the necessary credibility in the market. The platform has a range of options such as short training, webinars, incubator and e-coach, online library, events and activities for members. Over the next few months work will continue on this new commitment that is within the Made by Us University of Arts and Crafts program.



## HxN Events Among Multiple Stakeholders Towards Systemic Change

This year we have continued engaging in global forums, encouraging dialogue among multiple stakeholders about how to make the fashion and textile industry a platform for local development, collective action towards combating climate change and promotion of human rights. On April 6th, Hecho por Nosotros hosted an event on ‘Regenerative Models: Towards Resilience in Fashion’, in the framework of the ECOSOC Youth Forum’s 10th anniversary, the event. This event focused on regenerative models in the fashion industry and provided a space for connecting new young leaders in sustainable fashion.

## Looking towards future

We continue organizing our current projects and creating new ones to foster systemic change in the fashion industry, towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We work and encourage collaborative and collective action towards innovative and inclusive solutions to build a platform based on the promotion of human rights, protection of the environment and economic growth based on circular models.